

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 243

H.P. 182

House of Representatives, January 18, 2005

An Act To Allow Emergency Responders To Equip Their Vehicles with 2 Emergency Flashing Lights

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAVIS of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Representative: EDGECOMB of Caribou.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2003, c. 451, Pt. T, §14, is further amended by amending subparagraphs (17) and (18) to read:

(17) A vehicle operated by a qualified deputy sheriff or other qualified individual to perform court security-related functions and services as authorized by the State Court Administrator pursuant to Title 4, section 17, subsection 15; or

(18) A Federal Government vehicle operated by a federal law enforcement officer;

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2003, c. 451, Pt. T, §14, is further amended by enacting subparagraphs (19) and (20) to read:

(19) A personal vehicle operated by an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department, only when the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency; or

(20) A personal vehicle operated by an active member of a municipal emergency medical service, only when the member is en route to or at the scene of an emergency.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

A. Only an ambulance; an emergency medical service vehicle; a fire department vehicle; a police vehicle; a Department of Conservation vehicle used for forest fire control; a Department of Corrections vehicle as described in subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (6); a personal vehicle operated by an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or an emergency medical service, only when the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency; and a highway maintenance vehicle may be equipped with a device that provides for alternate flashing of the vehicle's headlights.

Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. C, §9 and affected by c. 599, §§12 and 13, is further amended to read:

F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail vehicles as provided in paragraph C, subparagraph (5) and

2 school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red
auxiliary or emergency light.

4 (1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an
emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department
6 vehicle, a fire vehicle or a hazardous material
response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination
8 of red and white light.

10 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official
designated by the municipal officers, with the approval
12 of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
municipal or volunteer fire department to use a
14 flashing red signal light not more than 5 inches in
diameter any combination of 2 flashing red or white
16 lights on a vehicle. The light lights may be displayed
but may be used only while the member is en route to or
18 at the scene of a fire or other emergency. The light
lights must be mounted as near as practicable above the
20 registration plate on the front of the vehicle or on
the dashboard. A light mounted on the dashboard must
22 be shielded so that the emitted light does not
interfere with the operator's vision.

24 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed
by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use
26 lights on a vehicle a flashing red signal light of the
same proportion, in the same location and under the
28 same conditions as those permitted municipal and
volunteer firefighters, when authorized by the chief
30 official of the emergency medical service.

32 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§10** is enacted to read:

34 **10. Use of lights; requirements; revocation.** Prior to
36 exercising the privilege of using emergency lights granted under
subsection 2, paragraph F, an active member of a municipal or
38 volunteer fire department or an emergency medical service
operating a vehicle listed under subsection 1, paragraph B,
40 subparagraphs (19) and (20) must have completed a state-certified
emergency vehicle operators or emergency ambulance operators
42 course.

44 The privilege of using lights may be revoked at any time by the
fire chief or the chief official of the emergency medical service
46 for misconduct.

SUMMARY

2 This bill permits municipal and volunteer firefighters and
4 emergency medical services personnel to use any combination of 2
6 flashing red or white lights on personal vehicles while en route
8 to or at the scene of fires or other emergencies. It also
10 provides that such vehicles are covered by the rules of operation
applying to authorized emergency vehicles. The bill also
requires that a person may use flashing lights on a personal
vehicle only upon completion of a state-certified emergency
vehicle operators or emergency ambulance operators course.