

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1163

H.P. 806

House of Representatives, March 8, 2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Regulating Street Rods and Custom Vehicles

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative TRAHAN of Waldoboro.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§9-A** is enacted to read:

6 9-A. Blue dot taillight. "Blue dot taillight" means a red
8 lamp installed as a taillight in the rear of a motor vehicle
containing a blue or purple insert that is not more than one inch
in diameter.

10 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§19-A** is enacted to read:

12 19-A. Custom vehicle. "Custom vehicle" means a motor
14 vehicle that is at least 25 years old and of a model year after
1948 or a motor vehicle that was manufactured to resemble a motor
16 vehicle that is at least 25 years old and of a model year after
1948 and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original
design or has a body constructed from nonoriginal material.

18 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§76,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.
20 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed and the
22 following enacted in its place:

24 76. Street rod. "Street rod" means a motor vehicle that was
26 manufactured in or before 1949 or a motor vehicle manufactured
after 1948 to resemble a vehicle manufactured in or before 1948
and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design
or has a body constructed of nonoriginal material.

28 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §457, sub-§§1 and 3,** as enacted by PL 1993,
30 c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are amended to read:

32 **1. Antique vehicle registration plates authorized.** The
34 Secretary of State may issue registration plates for antique
36 autos, custom vehicles, horseless carriages, street rods or
38 antique motorcycles. These plates must bear the inscription
"Maine" and the inscription "Antique Auto," "Custom Vehicle,"
"Horseless Carriage" or "Street Rod" or, for antique motorcycles,
the inscription "Antique."

40 **3. Contemporary plates.** An owner of an antique auto,
42 custom vehicle, horseless carriage, street rod or antique
44 motorcycle may use registration plates that were issued in the
same year the antique vehicle was manufactured, as long as the
motor vehicle:

46 A. Is over 25 years old;

48 B. Is registered as an antique vehicle; and

2 C. Carries a valid antique motor vehicle registration
certificate and plates.

4 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §457, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683,
Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed.

6 **Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §457, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683,
8 Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

10 **6. Application.** An application for registration of a
12 vehicle under this section or section 527 must be accompanied by
an affidavit that includes a statement of the age and intended
14 use of the motor vehicle and that the vehicle is garaged or
maintained in the State. ~~A person registering a street rod must
16 furnish verification that the vehicle is a qualified street rod.~~

18 **Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §457, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 790,
Pt. C, §1 and affected by §19, is further amended to read:

20 **7. Registration fee.** The fee for registration of an
antique auto, horseless carriage or antique motorcycle is \$15.
22 ~~The fee for registration of a street rod is \$30.~~

24 **Sec. 8. 29-A MRSA §527** is enacted to read:

26 **§527. Street rods and custom vehicles**

28 **1. Registration fee.** The Secretary of State shall issue a
one-time registration for a street rod or custom vehicle upon
30 payment of a fee determined by the Secretary of State.

32 **2. Certification.** Upon application for registration of a
motor vehicle under this section, the owner of the motor vehicle
34 shall certify that the owner understands that the motor vehicle
may be used only for occasional transportation, exhibitions, club
36 activities, parades, tours and similar uses and may be used for
general daily transportation only after passing a full safety
38 inspection under subsection 3.

40 **3. Safety inspection.** Upon application for registration of
a motor vehicle under this section, an owner of a street rod or
42 custom vehicle that is to be used for general daily
transportation shall provide proof acceptable to the Secretary of
44 State that the motor vehicle passed a safety inspection approved
by the Secretary of State.

46 **4. Equipment.** Unless the presence of equipment is
48 specifically required by law as a condition of sale in the year
listed as the year of manufacture on the certificate of title of
50 a motor vehicle registered under this section, the presence of

2 any specific equipment is not required for the operation of a
3 vehicle registered under this section if the requirements of
4 subsection 3 have been met. A motor vehicle may use a blue dot
5 taillight for a stop lamp, a rear hazard lamp and a rear
6 reflector.

7 5. Rules. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to
8 implement the provisions of this section to develop a
9 certification form for registrants of street rods and custom
10 vehicles and determine the registration fee required for street
11 rods and custom vehicles, safety inspection standards for street
12 rods after consulting with interested parties in the street rod
13 community in the State and safety inspection standards for custom
14 vehicles after consultation with interested parties in the custom
15 vehicle community in the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this
16 section are major substantive rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter
17 375, subchapter 2-A.

18 **Sec. 9. 29-A MRS §669** is enacted to read:

19 **§669. Street rods and custom vehicles**

20 The model year and year of manufacture on the title for a
21 street rod or custom vehicle must be the actual model year and
22 year of manufacture or the model year and year of manufacture
23 that the body of the motor vehicle is intended to resemble.

24 **Sec. 10. 29-A MRS §1752, sub-§10**, as amended by PL 2003, c.
25 397, §7, is further amended to read:

26 **10. Experimental motor vehicle.** A vehicle registered as an
27 experimental motor vehicle pursuant to section 470. An
28 experimental motor vehicle must meet minimum equipment standards
29 pursuant to section 470, subsection 2; and

30 **Sec. 11. 29-A MRS §1752, sub-§11**, as enacted by PL 2003, c.
31 397, §8, is amended to read:

32 **11. Low-speed vehicle.** A low-speed vehicle registered
33 pursuant to section 501, subsection 11. A low-speed vehicle must
34 be equipped in accordance with section 1925-; and

35 **Sec. 12. 29-A MRS §1752, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

36 **12. Street rods and custom vehicles.** A motor vehicle
37 registered under section 527, except that those motor vehicles
38 registered under section 527 that are to be used for general
39 daily transportation must meet the requirements of section 527,
40 subsection 3.

2 **Sec. 13. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2003,
c. 633, §4, is further amended to read:

4 D. Except as provided in this paragraph, a vehicle may not
be equipped with or display a blue light.

6 (1) Emergency lights used on the following vehicles
8 must emit a blue light or a combination of blue and
10 white light: a police vehicle; a Department of
12 Corrections vehicle as described in subsection 1,
14 paragraph B, subparagraph (6); a vehicle operated by a
16 chief of police, a sheriff or a deputy sheriff; and a
18 vehicle operated by a qualified deputy sheriff or other
20 qualified individual performing court security-related
22 functions and services.

24 (2) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an
26 emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department
28 vehicle or a hazardous material response vehicle may
include one blue light mounted facing toward the rear
of the vehicle so that the light is primarily visible
to approaching traffic from the rear only.

30 (3) The taillight of a vehicle, or replica of a
32 vehicle, manufactured prior to 1952 and registered
34 under section 457 or 527, may contain a blue or purple
36 insert of not more than one inch in diameter.

SUMMARY

32 This bill defines the terms "blue dot taillight," "custom
34 vehicle" and "street rod," repeals the existing standards for
36 street rods and establishes registration, certification, title,
safety and inspection requirements for street rods and custom
vehicles.