

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 'A' to S.P. 468, L.D. 1341, Bill, "An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1.

Further amend the bill in section 9 in paragraph B in the last line (page 2, line 24 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "1917" the following: ', subsection 3'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of sections 11 to 14.

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 16 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 16. 29-A MRSA §1912, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 140, §1, is amended to read:

6. Exception. Subsections 1 and 3 do not apply to a muffler or exhaust system that does not emit noise in excess of 95 decibels as measured in accordance with standards and specifications outlined in standard J-1169 adopted by the Society of Automotive Engineers in May 1998. A person served with a Violation Summons and Complaint charging a violation of subsection 1 or 3 must provide satisfactory evidence that the muffler or exhaust system does not emit a noise in excess of 95 decibels as measured in accordance with standards and specifications outlined in standard J-1169 adopted by the Society

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 468, L.D. 1341

of Automotive Engineers in May 1998. Measurements must be made by participating certified inspection stations.

This subsection applies to motor vehicles as defined in section 101, subsection 42, except that it does not apply to motorcycles.

**Sec. 17. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 15, §1, is further amended to read:

C. The use of amber lights on vehicles is governed by the following.

(1) A vehicle engaged in highway maintenance or in emergency rescue operations by civil defense and public safety agencies and a public utility emergency service vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

(2) A wrecker must be equipped with a flashing light mounted on top of the vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber light over a 360° angle. The light must be in use on a public way or a place where public traffic may reasonably be anticipated when servicing, freeing, loading, unloading or towing a vehicle.

(3) A vehicle engaged in snow removal or sanding operations on a public way must be equipped with and display at least 2 auxiliary lights mounted on the highest practical point on the vehicle and provide visible light coverage over a 360° range. The lights must emit an amber beam of light, be at least 6 inches in diameter and be equipped with blinking attachments. In lieu of the lights specified, a vehicle may be equipped with at least one auxiliary rotating flashing light having 4-inch sealed beams and showing amber beams of light over a 360° range or an amber strobe, or combination of strobes, that emits at a minimum a beam of 1,000,000 candlepower and provides visible light coverage over a 360° range. When the left wing of a plow is in operation and extends over the center of the road, an auxiliary light must show the extreme end of the left wing. That light may be attached to the vehicle so that the beam of light points at the left wing. The light illuminating the left wing may be controlled by a separate switch or by the regular lighting system and must be in operation at all times when the vehicle is used for plowing snow on public ways.

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(4) A vehicle equipped and used for plowing snow on other than public ways may be equipped with an auxiliary rotary flashing light that must be mounted on top of the vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber beam of light over a 360' angle, or an amber strobe, or combination of strobes, that emits at a minimum a beam of 50 candlepower and provides visible light coverage over a 360' range. ~~However, the vehicle must be equipped with and must use such a light whenever the vehicle enters a public way while in the course of plowing private driveways and other off-highway locations.~~ The light may be in use on a public way only when the vehicle is entering the public way in the course of plowing private driveways and other off-highway locations.

(5) A rural mail vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights.

(a) The lights used to the front must be white or amber, or any shade between white and amber.

(b) The lights used to the rear must be amber or red, or any shade between amber and red.

(c) The lights, whether used to the front or rear, must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as possible.

(d) The lights, whether used to the front or rear, must flash simultaneously.

(e) The lights must be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.

(6) A vehicle used or provided by a contract security company to assist in traffic control and direction at construction or maintenance sites on a public way may be equipped with auxiliary lights. Effective July 1, 1996, the auxiliary lights must be amber. Prior to July 1, 1996, the auxiliary lights must be green or amber.

(7) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by a motor carrier inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

(8) A vehicle used by an animal control officer appointed pursuant to Title 7, section 3947 may be

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equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing  
amber light.

(9) A refuse, garbage or trash business vehicle used  
by an individual to transport refuse, garbage and trash  
may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a  
flashing amber light.'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any  
nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read  
consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment does the following.

1. It removes language that amends the definition of  
altered vehicle to include motor vehicles with a gross vehicle  
weight of 10,000 pounds or more.

2. It removes language that amends the commercial motor  
vehicle inspection requirements.

3. It removes language that allows for an exception to the  
speed and load rating requirements for tires.

4. It clarifies that a person who is served with a  
Violation Summons and Complaint for operating a motor vehicle  
with an inadequate or amplified muffler or exhaust system must  
provide satisfactory evidence that the muffler or exhaust system  
does not emit a noise in excess of 95 decibels.

5. It removes language that requires a vehicle used for  
plowing snow on private ways to be equipped with and use a rotary  
flashing light when entering a public way while engaged in a  
plowing activity.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)



# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1341

LR 0410(02)

## An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Transportation

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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### Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund  
Minor revenue increase - General Fund

### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

Establishes a new traffic infraction.

The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.