

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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No. 173

H.P. 155

House of Representatives, January 16, 2007

An Act To Allow a Newspaper Carrier To Use Flashing Amber Lights on That Carrier's Vehicle

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FINLEY of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, CURTIS of Madison, PINKHAM of
Lexington Township, Senator: MILLS of Somerset.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 482, §4, is
3 further amended to read:

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

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

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

13 (3) A vehicle engaged in snow removal or sanding operations on a public way
14 must be equipped with and display an auxiliary light that provides visible light
15 coverage over a 360° range. The light must emit an amber beam of light and be
16 equipped with a blinking or strobe light function and have sufficient intensity to
17 be visible at 500 feet in normal daylight. When the left wing of a plow is in
18 operation and extends over the center of the road, an auxiliary light must show
19 the extreme end of the left wing. That light may be attached to the vehicle so that
20 the beam of light points at the left wing. The light illuminating the left wing may
21 be controlled by a separate switch or by the regular lighting system and must be
22 in operation at all times when the vehicle is used for plowing snow on public
23 ways.

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (e) The lights must be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in normal
41 daylight.

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

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

8 (8) A vehicle used by an animal control officer appointed pursuant to Title 7,
9 section 3947 may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber
10 light.

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

14 (10) A vehicle used by an individual to transport and deliver newspapers may be
15 equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill authorizes the use of flashing amber lights on newspaper delivery carriers'
18 vehicles.