

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 407

H.P. 323

House of Representatives, January 29, 2007

**An Act To Allow the Use of Flashing Red Lights by State
Emergency Management Agency Directors**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative RINES of Wiscasset.
Cosponsored by Senator DOW of Lincoln and
Representatives: GREELEY of Levant, MARLEY of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 299, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail vehicles as provided in
5 paragraph C, subparagraph (5) and school buses may be equipped with, display or use
6 a red auxiliary or emergency light.

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

11 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal
12 officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
13 municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and
14 white flashing auxiliary light mounted as near as practicable above the front
15 registration plate on the front of the vehicle, behind the rearview mirror or on the
16 dashboard or 2 flashing red or combination red and white auxiliary lights
17 mounted on the front of the vehicle above the front bumper and below the hood.
18 The light or lights may be displayed but may be used only while the member is
19 en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency. A light mounted on the
20 dashboard or behind the rearview mirror must be shielded so that the emitted
21 light does not interfere with the operator's vision. The use of lights may be
22 revoked at any time by the fire chief.

23 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency
24 Medical Services may display and use on a vehicle red or red and white
25 combination flashing auxiliary lights of the same proportion, in the same location
26 and under the same conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer
27 firefighters, when authorized by the chief official of the emergency medical
28 service. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the chief official of the
29 emergency medical service.

30 (4) The Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency under Title 37-
31 B, section 704 and each agency director under Title 37-B, section 782 may
32 display and use on a vehicle a flashing red auxiliary light when a state emergency
33 is declared pursuant to Title 37-B, section 742.

34 **SUMMARY**

35 This bill allows the use of flashing red vehicle lights by emergency management
36 agency directors when a state emergency is declared.