

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 246

H.P. 199

House of Representatives, February 1, 2011

An Act To Require the Daytime Use of Headlights on Motor Vehicles

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative KNAPP of Gorham. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, BOLDUC of Auburn,
PEOPLES of Westbrook, ROSEN of Bucksport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2067, sub-§1, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 249, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 B. At any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric
5 conditions, including, but not limited to, rain, freezing rain, fog or snow, persons or
6 vehicles on the way are not discernible for a distance of 1,000 feet ahead; ~~and~~

7 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2067, sub-§1, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 249, §1, is
8 amended to read:

9 C. At any time when windshield wipers are in constant use; and

10 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2067, sub-§1, ¶D** is enacted to read:

11 D. While the vehicle is operated on a way, for a vehicle manufactured after 2010,
12 except that hybrid vehicles of any model year are exempt from this paragraph.

13 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2067, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

14 **4. Enforcement.** A violation of subsection 1, paragraph D is a traffic infraction for
15 which a fine of \$25 may be imposed.

16 Subsection 1, paragraph D may be enforced only if a law enforcement officer has
17 detained the operator of a motor vehicle for suspected violation of another law. An
18 operator is not subject to the penalty established in this subsection unless the operator is
19 required to pay a fine for violating the other law.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill requires that the driver of a motor vehicle manufactured after 2010 use
22 headlights any time the motor vehicle is operated on a way. The bill also adds a provision
23 allowing enforcement of the mandatory headlights provision only when a vehicle is
24 stopped for a suspected violation of another law. A hybrid vehicle is exempt from the
25 requirement of using headlights any time the vehicle is operated on a way.