

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 970

H.P. 714

House of Representatives, March 8, 2011

### **An Act To Increase Safety for Law Enforcement Officers and Emergency Responders**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CORNELL du HOUX of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Senator GERZOFKY of Cumberland and  
Representatives: CLARK of Easton, DION of Portland, GILBERT of Jay, HINCK of Portland,  
LOVEJOY of Portland, MAZUREK of Rockland, WEBSTER of Freeport, Senator: CRAVEN  
of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§9**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 348, §20, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 **9. Stationary vehicles.** The operator of a vehicle passing a stationary authorized  
5 emergency vehicle using an emergency light or a stationary wrecker using its authorized  
6 lights, with due regard to the safety and traffic conditions, shall:

7 A. Pass in a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle or  
8 wrecker, if possible; or

9 B. If passing in a nonadjacent lane is impossible or unsafe, pass the emergency  
10 vehicle or wrecker at a careful and prudent speed reasonable for passing the  
11 authorized emergency vehicle or wrecker safely.

12 A violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction for which a minimum fine of ~~\$250~~  
13 \$500 must be adjudged, except that, beginning September 1, 2013, a minimum fine of  
14 \$250 must be adjudged.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 Current law requires a minimum fine of \$250 for an operator of a vehicle who passes  
17 a stationary authorized emergency vehicle or wrecker in an unsafe manner. This bill  
18 raises that fine to \$500 for a 2-year period, after which the fine will go back to \$250.