

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/2/13

L.D. 11  
(Filing No. H-33 )

**TRANSPORTATION**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
126TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 15, L.D. 11, Bill, "An Act To Allow Vehicles Engaged in Snow Removal or Sanding Operations on Public Ways To Use Preemptive Traffic Light Devices"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2057-A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 633, §6, is amended to read:

**§2057-A. Preemptive traffic light devices prohibited**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Lighted traffic control device" means a traffic control device conforming to the requirements of section 2057, subsection 1.

B. "Preemptive traffic light device" means a device, including a signal prioritization device or a signal preemption device, capable of altering or interrupting the normal cycle of a lighted traffic control device or equipment associated with the functionality of a lighted traffic control device.

C. "Signal preemption device" means a device that, when activated and when a vehicle equipped with such a device approaches an intersection controlled by a lighted traffic control device, causes:

(1) The signal, in the direction of travel of the vehicle, to remain green if the signal is already displaying a green light or to change from red to green if the signal is displaying a red light;

(2) The signal, in other directions of travel, to remain red or change to red, as applicable, to prevent other vehicles from entering the intersection; and

(3) The applicable functions described in subparagraphs (1) and (2) to continue until the vehicle equipped with the device is clear of the intersection.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

R.O.F.S

1 D. "Signal prioritization device" means a device that, when activated and when a  
2 vehicle equipped with such a device approaches an intersection controlled by a  
3 lighted traffic control device, causes:

4 (1) The signal, in the direction of travel of the vehicle, to display a green light  
5 sooner than the green light would otherwise be displayed;

6 (2) The signal, in the direction of travel of the vehicle, to display a green light  
7 longer than the green light would otherwise be displayed; and

8 (3) The applicable functions described in subparagraphs (1) and (2) to continue  
9 until the vehicle equipped with the device is clear of the intersection.

10 **2. Violation.** A person commits a Class E crime if that person possesses a  
11 preemptive traffic light device or operates or allows the operation of a motor vehicle,  
12 vehicle, motorized wheelchair, electric personal mobility device, scooter or bicycle  
13 equipped with a preemptive traffic light device.

14 **3. Exemptions.** This section does not apply to:

15 A. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with a signal prioritization device or  
16 signal preemption device or both maintained by a municipality, county or state  
17 agency or an ambulance or emergency medical services vehicle as defined in section  
18 2054, subsection 1;

19 B. Transit route buses equipped with signal prioritization devices engaged in the  
20 transportation of passengers and maintained by or contracted to a municipal, county  
21 or state agency; or

22 C. A vehicle equipped with a signal prioritization device used by the Department of  
23 Transportation for the purpose of installing, maintaining or testing a lighted traffic  
24 control device; or

25 D. A vehicle equipped with a signal prioritization device owned or contracted by a  
26 municipality engaged in snow removal or sanding operations on a public way and  
27 authorized by the municipal officers or a vehicle equipped with a signal prioritization  
28 device owned or contracted by a county or state agency engaged in snow removal or  
29 sanding operations on a public way.

30 A vehicle under paragraph B, C or D may not operate a signal prioritization device in a  
31 manner that impedes or interferes with the use of a signal prioritization device by a  
32 vehicle under paragraph A. A vehicle under paragraph C may not operate a signal  
33 prioritization device in a manner that impedes or interferes with the use of a signal  
34 prioritization device by a vehicle under paragraphs B and D.'

35 **SUMMARY**

36 The bill allows a vehicle owned or contracted by a municipal, county or state agency  
37 engaged in snow removal or sanding operations on a public way to use a preemptive  
38 traffic light device. This amendment, which strikes and replaces the bill, clarifies that a  
39 vehicle owned or contracted by a municipality engaged in snow removal or sanding  
40 operations must be authorized by the municipal officers.

R.O.F.S

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 15, L.D. 11

1           The amendment also clarifies that the definition of "preemptive traffic light device"  
2 includes both a signal prioritization device and a signal preemption device and provides  
3 definitions for those terms. The amendment clarifies that an authorized emergency  
4 vehicle may be equipped with a signal prioritization device and a signal preemption  
5 device and must be given the right-of-way at a signalized intersection. The amendment  
6 further provides that a transit route bus, a vehicle engaged in snow removal or sanding  
7 operations and a vehicle used by the Department of Transportation for the purpose of  
8 installing, maintaining or testing a lighted traffic control device may be equipped with  
9 and use a signal prioritization device. The amendment also provides that a vehicle used  
10 by the Department of Transportation for installing or maintaining a lighted traffic control  
11 device has the lowest level of priority at a signalized intersection.

12

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

13

**(See attached)**



Approved: 03/15/13 *MAC*

# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 11

LR 259(02)

**An Act To Allow Vehicles Engaged in Snow Removal or Sanding Operations on Public Ways To Use Preemptive Traffic Light Devices**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-33)**  
**Committee: Transportation**  
**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor savings - General Fund  
Minor revenue decrease - General Fund

### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

Eliminates Class E crimes.

A reduction in fines will decrease General Fund revenue by minor amounts.