

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 37

H.P. 35

House of Representatives, January 13, 2015

**An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a
Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical
Services Department**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship. (BY REQUEST)

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 2013, c. 462, §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 emergency management and public safety agencies and a public
7 utility emergency service vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit
8 an amber light.

9 (1-A) A Department of Labor motor vehicle operated by a workplace safety
10 inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

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

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

27 (4) A vehicle equipped and used for plowing snow on other than public ways
28 may be equipped with an auxiliary rotary flashing light that must be mounted on
29 top of the vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber beam of light over a ~~360°~~
30 360-degree angle, or an amber strobe, or combination of strobes, that emits at a
31 minimum a beam of 50 candlepower and provides visible light coverage over a
32 ~~360°~~ 360-degree range. The light may be in use on a public way only when the
33 vehicle is entering the public way in the course of plowing private driveways and
34 other off-highway locations.

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

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

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

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

- 1 (d) The lights, whether used to the front or rear, must flash simultaneously.
- 2 (e) The lights must be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in normal
3 daylight.
- 4 (6) A vehicle used or provided by a contract security company to assist in traffic
5 control and direction at construction or maintenance sites on a public way may be
6 equipped with amber auxiliary lights.
- 7 (7) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by a motor carrier inspector
8 or motor vehicle inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an
9 amber light.
- 10 (8) A vehicle used by an animal control officer appointed pursuant to Title 7,
11 section 3947 may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber
12 light.
- 13 (9) A refuse, garbage or trash business vehicle used by an individual to transport
14 refuse, garbage and trash may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a
15 flashing amber light.
- 16 (10) A vehicle used by an individual to transport and deliver newspapers may be
17 equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.
- 18 (11) A vehicle used by a member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or
19 an emergency medical service may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an
20 amber light as permitted by paragraph F.

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

- 23 F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail vehicles as provided in paragraph
24 C, subparagraph (5) and school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red
25 auxiliary or emergency light.
- 26 (1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an emergency medical service
27 vehicle, a fire department vehicle, a fire vehicle, a rescue vehicle or a hazardous
28 material response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination of red and white
29 light.
- 30 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal
31 officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
32 municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and
33 white flashing auxiliary light mounted ~~as near as practicable above the front~~
34 ~~registration plate on the front of the vehicle, behind the rearview mirror in the~~
35 windshield or on the dashboard ~~or~~, 2 flashing red or combination red and white
36 auxiliary lights mounted on the front of the vehicle above the front bumper and
37 below the hood and red, amber or combination red and amber auxiliary lights
38 mounted in the rear window area. The light or lights may be displayed but may
39 be used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other
40 emergency. A light mounted on the dashboard or ~~behind the rearview mirror in~~
41 the windshield must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with

1 the operator's vision. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the fire
2 chief.

3 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency
4 Medical Services may display and use on a vehicle red or combination red and
5 white ~~combination~~ flashing auxiliary lights and red, amber or combination red
6 and amber auxiliary lights of the same proportion, in the same location and under
7 the same conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer firefighters,
8 when authorized by the chief official of the emergency medical service. The use
9 of lights may be revoked at any time by the chief official of the emergency
10 medical service.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill increases the number of emergency lights allowed on personal vehicles used
13 by firefighters and emergency medical service personnel by increasing the number of
14 such lights allowed on the front of the vehicles and allowing such lights on the rear of the
15 vehicles.