

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 892

S.P. 292

In Senate, March 7, 2017

**An Act To Allow an Attorney Responding to an Incident that
Involved the Use of Deadly Force To Use Emergency Lights on a
Vehicle**

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
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Senators: COLLINS of York, CYRWAY of Kennebec, DAVIS of Piscataquis,
MAKER of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶C-1** is enacted to read:

3 C-1. "Critical incident response vehicle" means a vehicle operated by an attorney
4 directly involved in and responding to an incident involving the use of deadly force
5 by a law enforcement officer.

6 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 183, §2, is
7 further amended to read:

8 D. Except as provided in this paragraph, a vehicle may not be equipped with or
9 display a blue light.

10 (1) A critical incident response vehicle may use emergency lights that emit a
11 blue light or a combination of blue and white light. Emergency lights used on the
12 following vehicles must emit a blue light or a combination of blue and white
13 light: a police vehicle; a Department of Corrections vehicle as described in
14 subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (6); a vehicle operated by a chief of
15 police, a sheriff or a deputy sheriff; and a vehicle operated by a qualified deputy
16 sheriff or other qualified individual performing court security-related functions
17 and services.

18 (2) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an emergency medical service
19 vehicle, a fire department vehicle or a hazardous material response vehicle may
20 include one blue light mounted facing toward the rear of the vehicle so that the
21 light is primarily visible to approaching traffic from the rear only.

22 (3) The taillight of a vehicle, or replica of a vehicle, manufactured prior to 1952
23 and registered under section 457, may contain a blue or purple insert of not more
24 than one inch in diameter.

25 (4) Blue interior auxiliary lighting or dash lighting may be used on any vehicle if
26 no portion of the beam of light is visible at a height of 42 inches above a surface
27 parallel with the level surface on which the vehicle stands at a distance of 20 feet
28 from any part of the vehicle.

29 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and
30 affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

31 **3. Sirens.** A bell or siren may not be installed or used on any vehicle, except an
32 authorized emergency vehicle or a critical incident response vehicle.

33 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and
34 affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

35 **6. Emergency lights and audible signals.** The operator of an authorized emergency
36 vehicle who is exercising the privileges granted under subsection 5 shall use an
37 emergency light authorized by subsection 2. The operator of an authorized emergency
38 vehicle who is exercising the privileges granted under subsection 5, paragraphs B, C, D
39 and E shall sound a bell or siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other

1 operators of the emergency vehicle's approach. The operator of a critical incident
2 response vehicle may use emergency lights authorized by subsection 2, paragraph D and
3 may sound a bell or siren to warn pedestrians and other operators of the critical incident
4 response vehicle's approach.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This bill allows a vehicle operated by an attorney directly involved in and responding
7 to an incident involving the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer to use a blue
8 light or a combination of blue and white lights and a siren.