

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1576

H.P. 1138

House of Representatives, April 16, 2019

**An Act To Improve the Department of Corrections' Response to
Emergency Situations by Including Vehicles Operated by Certain
Department Employees in the Definition of Authorized Emergency
Vehicles**

Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PICKETT of Dixfield.
Cosponsored by Senator DESCHAMBAULT of York and
Representatives: COREY of Windham, COSTAIN of Plymouth, MORALES of South
Portland, RECKITT of South Portland, SHARPE of Durham, WARREN of Hallowell,
Senator: ROSEN of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 229, §32, is
3 further amended to read:

4 B. "Authorized emergency vehicle" means any one of the following vehicles:

- 5 (1) An ambulance;
- 6 (2) A Baxter State Park Authority vehicle operated by a Baxter State Park
7 ranger;
- 8 (3) A Bureau of Marine Patrol vehicle operated by a coastal warden;
- 9 (4) A Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry vehicle operated by
10 a forest ranger;
- 11 (5) A Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry vehicle used for
12 forest fire control;
- 13 (6) A Department of Corrections vehicle used for responding to the escape of or
14 performing the high-security transfer of a prisoner, juvenile client or juvenile
15 detainee or operated by an investigative officer or other employee of the
16 Department of Corrections who is certified by the Board of Trustees of the Maine
17 Criminal Justice Academy as a law enforcement officer;
- 18 (7) A Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife vehicle operated by a warden;
- 19 (8) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by a police officer appointed
20 pursuant to Title 25, section 2908, a state fire investigator or a Maine Drug
21 Enforcement Agency officer;
- 22 (9) An emergency medical service vehicle;
- 23 (10) A fire department vehicle;
- 24 (11) A hazardous material response vehicle, including a vehicle designed to
25 respond to a weapon of mass destruction;
- 26 (12) A railroad police vehicle;
- 27 (13) A sheriff's department vehicle;
- 28 (14) A State Police or municipal police department vehicle;
- 29 (15) A vehicle operated by a chief of police, a sheriff or a deputy sheriff when
30 authorized by the sheriff;
- 31 (16) A vehicle operated by a municipal fire inspector, a municipal fire chief, an
32 assistant or deputy chief or a town forest fire warden;
- 33 (17) A vehicle operated by a qualified deputy sheriff or other qualified
34 individual to perform court security-related functions and services as authorized
35 by the State Court Administrator pursuant to Title 4, section 17, subsection 15;
- 36 (18) A Federal Government vehicle operated by a federal law enforcement
37 officer;

- 1 (19) A vehicle operated by a municipal rescue chief, deputy chief or assistant
2 chief;
- 3 (20) An Office of the Attorney General vehicle operated by a detective
4 appointed pursuant to Title 5, section 202;
- 5 (21) A Department of the Secretary of State vehicle operated by a motor vehicle
6 detective; and
- 7 (22) A University of Maine System vehicle operated by a University of Maine
8 System police officer.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill amends the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" in the motor
11 vehicle laws to include a Department of Corrections vehicle operated by an investigative
12 officer or other employee of the department who is certified by the Board of Trustees of
13 the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a law enforcement officer.