

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1623

H.P. 1207

House of Representatives, April 27, 2021

**An Act To Require That Motor Vehicles Be Clear of Snow and Ice
When Operated on Public Ways**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R(t) B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITE of Mars Hill.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and
Representatives: WHITE of Waterville, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, WOOD of Portland,
Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2396, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

3 **5. Solid precipitation.** A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a public way
4 with a load of solid precipitation on the motor vehicle. For the purposes of this subsection,
5 "solid precipitation" includes, but is not limited to, snow, ice, hail and sleet.

6 When a reasonable effort has been made to completely remove a load of solid precipitation
7 from a motor vehicle, minor amounts blown from the motor vehicle while in transit do not
8 evidence a violation of this subsection.

9 Notwithstanding subsection 2, a violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction subject
10 to a fine of not less than \$250 for the first offense and not less than \$500 for a 2nd or
11 subsequent offense.

12 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2396, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

13 **6. Exemption.** Subsection 5 does not apply to commercial motor vehicles.

14 This subsection is repealed May 1, 2026.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle on a public way without
17 clearing the motor vehicle of solid precipitation. Operating a motor vehicle under such
18 circumstances is a traffic infraction subject to a \$250 fine for a first offense and \$500 for a
19 2nd or subsequent offense. The prohibition does not apply to commercial vehicles until
20 May 1, 2026.