

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 522

H.P. 327

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

An Act to Require That Motor Vehicles Be Clear of Snow When Operated on Public Ways

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITE of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, ANKELES of Brunswick, CARLOW of Buxton,
CRAFTS of Newcastle, O'CONNELL of Brewer, THERIAULT of Fort Kent, WILLIAMS of
Bar Harbor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2396, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 144, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Unsecured load.** A person may not operate on a public way a vehicle with a load
5 that is not fastened, secured, confined or loaded to reasonably prevent a portion from falling
6 off.

7 For the purposes of this section, "load" includes, but is not limited to, snow that has
8 naturally accumulated on the top of a vehicle, snow that is part of an actual load, firewood,
9 pulpwood, logs, bolts or other material, but does not include loose hay, pea vines, straw,
10 grain or cornstalks.

11 When the load consists of sawdust, shavings or wood chips, and a reasonable effort has
12 been made to completely cover the load, minor amounts blown from the vehicle while in
13 transit do not constitute a violation. With regard to snow that has accumulated on the top
14 of a vehicle naturally, a person may not be cited for violating this subsection during a snow
15 event. For the purposes of this subsection, "snow event" means the day of and the 48-hour
16 period after a snowstorm that took place in the area.

17 A violation of this section is a traffic infraction subject to a ~~forfeiture~~ fine of not less than
18 \$150 nor more than \$500.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill prohibits a person from operating on a public way a vehicle with a load of
21 unsecured snow or a vehicle that has naturally accumulated snow on top of the vehicle,
22 except that, with regard to snow that has accumulated naturally, a driver may not be cited
23 during a snowstorm and the 48-hour period after the snowstorm that took place in the area.