

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 528

H.P. 333

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

An Act to Improve Road Safety for Waste and Recycling Collection Employees

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: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAFTS of Newcastle, O'CONNELL of Brewer,
PARRY of Arundel, Senator: STEWART of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶I-1**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 32, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 I-1. "Public service vehicle" means a vehicle used to assist members of the public or
5 law enforcement officers with disabled vehicles or to remove debris from a roadway,
6 a refuse, garbage, compost, recycling or trash business vehicle used to transport refuse,
7 garbage, compost, recycling or trash or a vehicle used to construct, maintain, inspect
8 or repair utility infrastructure, including, but not limited to, electricity, water, sewer,
9 cable, telephone, gas and natural gas infrastructure. "Public service vehicle" includes
10 a wrecker.

11 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 582, §1, is
12 further amended by amending subparagraph (9) to read:

13 (9) A refuse, garbage, compost, recycling or trash business vehicle used by an
14 individual to transport refuse, garbage and, compost, recycling or trash may be
15 equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 Current law requires persons attempting to pass vehicles used to assist members of the
18 public or law enforcement officers with disabled vehicles or to remove debris from a
19 roadway, including wreckers, or vehicles used to construct, maintain, inspect or repair
20 utility infrastructure to do so in a nonadjacent lane when possible or at a careful and prudent
21 speed if the vehicles are using their authorized lights. This bill adds similar requirements
22 for persons attempting to pass business vehicles used to transport refuse, garbage, compost,
23 recycling or trash. The bill also clarifies that business vehicles used to transport compost
24 or recycling may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.