

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

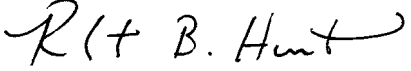
No. 1296

H.P. 821

House of Representatives, March 23, 2023

**An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Allow Firefighters to Have
Increased Lighting on Their Personal Vehicles**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative NESS of Fryeburg.
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and
Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, GUERRETTE of Caribou, LAJOIE of
Lewiston, MASON of Lisbon, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, NEWMAN of Belgrade, WHITE of
Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 113, §1, is
3 further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

4 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal
5 officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
6 municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and white
7 flashing auxiliary light mounted in the windshield or on the dashboard at the front
8 of the vehicle or 2 flashing red or combination red and white auxiliary lights
9 mounted on the front of the vehicle above the front bumper and below the hood
10 and one red auxiliary light mounted in the rear window area. In addition to the
11 lights authorized under this subparagraph, the municipal officers or municipal
12 official designated by the municipal officers, with the approval of the fire chief,
13 may authorize an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department to use
14 one red light bar ~~no more than 8~~ from 10 inches in length up to the width between
15 the tops of the doors on the roof of the vehicle so that the light is visible to
16 approaching traffic from the front and the rear of the vehicle. The light or lights
17 may be displayed but may be used only while the member is en route to or at the
18 scene of a fire or other emergency. A light mounted on the dashboard or in the
19 windshield must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the
20 operator's vision. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the fire chief.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 Currently, state law allows an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire
23 department to place one red light bar no more than 8 inches in length on the roof of their
24 vehicles. This bill changes the length of the red light bar from no more than 8 inches in
25 length to 10 inches in length up to the width between the tops of the doors on the roof of
26 the vehicle.