

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT

EIGHTY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 621

H. P. 1299

House of Representatives, Apr. 7, 1927.

Reported by Miss Laughlin from Committee on Legal Affairs
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN**

AN ACT Relating to Front Lights on Motor Vehicles and
Tractors.

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

Section sixty-eight of chapter two hundred eleven of the
2 public laws of nineteen hundred twenty-one is hereby amend-
3 ed by inserting after the word "wheels" in the first line of
4 the second paragraph thereof the words 'other than a mo-
5 torcycle' and by striking out the words "the right and left
6 sides" in lines one and two thereof; and by inserting after
7 the word "lamps" in the second line of said paragraph the
8 following words, 'one on the right side and one on the left
9 side'; and by inserting after the word "stands" in line twenty
10 of said paragraph the words 'and provided, further, that, at

11 no time, shall the top of any main beam of light be higher
12 than the headlight centers' and by adding at the end of said
13 paragraph the following: 'For the purpose of enforcing
14 the provisions of this section, it shall be deemed to be a
15 violation of its provisions if a front light or front lights of
16 a motor vehicle projects the top of any main beam, at a
17 distance of twenty-five feet ahead of the motor vehicle,
18 on an approximately level stretch of highway, onto the body
19 of a person or on a motor vehicle or any object, at a height
20 greater than the distance of the centers of the front lights
21 from the highway,' so that said section, as amended, shall
22 read as follows:

'Sect. 68. *Motor vehicles to be equipped with lights and
2 lamps; shall conform with rules of commission; must be
3 lighted from half hour after sunset to half hour before
4 sunrise; lights to conform to certain specifications; trailers
5 to be equipped with lights; motor vehicles and trailers to be
6 equipped with red tail light and a white light to illuminate
7 number plates.* Every motor vehicle and tractor on wheels
8 shall be equipped with lamps and lights as provided in this
9 act, of sufficient power and so adjusted and operated as to
10 enable its operator to proceed with safety to himself and
11 to other users of the ways under all ordinary conditions
12 of highway and weather. Said lamps and lights shall con-
13 form to and operate in accordance with the rules and regu-
14 lations promulgated from time to time by the commission,
15 as provided in this act and shall be lighted during the period

16 from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before
17 sunrise; except as provided in section sixty-nine.

Every motor vehicle and tractor on wheels, other than a
2 motorcycle, shall have mounted on the front thereof a pair
3 of lamps, one on the right side and one on the left side,
4 each of approximately equal candle-power; and every mo-
5 torcycle shall have mounted on the front thereof one lamp.
6 If any such vehicle is so mechanically constructed, governed
7 or controlled that it cannot exceed a speed of fifteen miles
8 per hour, it shall have front lamps capable of furnishing
9 light of sufficient candle-power to render any substantial
10 object clearly discernible on a level way at least fifty feet
11 directly ahead and at the same time at least seven feet to
12 the right of the axis of such vehicle for a distance of at
13 least twenty-five feet. If said vehicles can exceed a speed
14 of fifteen miles per hour, then they shall have front lamps
15 capable of furnishing light of sufficient candle-power to
16 render any substantial object clearly discernible on a level
17 way at least two hundred feet directly ahead and at the
18 same time at least seven feet to the right of the axis of
19 such vehicle for a distance of at least one hundred feet;
20 provided that no front lamp capable of furnishing more
21 than four candle-power light shall be used if equipped with
22 a reflector, unless so designed, equipped or mounted that
23 no portion of the beam of light when projected seventy-five
24 feet or more ahead of the lamps shall rise above a plane
25 forty-two inches higher than and parallel with the level

26 surface on which the vehicle stands; and provided, further,
27 that, at no time shall the top of any main beam of light be
28 higher than the headlight centers; and provided, further,
29 that no electric bulb or other lighting device of a greater
30 capacity than thirty-two candle-power shall be used, no
31 matter how the same may be shaded, covered or obscured.
32 For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this section,
33 it shall be deemed to be a violation of its provisions if a
34 front light or front lights of a motor vehicle projects the
35 top of any main beam, at a distance of twenty-five feet
36 ahead of the motor vehicle, on an approximately level
37 stretch of highway, onto the body of a person or on a motor
38 vehicle or any object, at a height greater than the distance
39 of the centers of the front lights from the highway.

‘Every trailer, when operated at night shall carry at the
2 front of its left side one lamp capable of throwing a white
3 light visible from both sides of such vehicle; excepting how-
4 ever, small two-wheel trailers of one thousand pounds capac-
5 ity or less, towed closely behind a motor vehicle, whose
6 overall length, including towing vehicle and load, does not
7 exceed thirty feet.

‘Every such motor vehicle, tractor and trailer, shall have
2 on the rear thereof, and to the left of the axis thereof, one
3 lamp capable of displaying a red light visible for a distance
4 of at least one hundred feet behind such vehicle; provided
5 that when a vehicle is used in conjunction with another
6 vehicle or vehicles, only the last of such vehicles shall be

7 required to carry such lamp. Every such motor vehicle,
8 tractor and trailer shall carry a lamp illuminating with white
9 light the rear registration plate of such vehicle so that the
10 characters thereon shall be visible for a distance of at least
11 fifty feet.