

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
132<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION**

May 2026

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION**

**LD 2053 An Act to Improve Safety by Allowing the Use of Variable-message Signs on Certain Vehicles**

Public Law 2025, chapter 546 makes the following changes related to the use of variable message signs on a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle, and on wreckers.

1. It defines “variable-message sign” to mean a traffic control device on which a message can be displayed and changed manually, electronically, mechanically, electromechanically or by other means to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic accidents, maintenance operations, adverse weather conditions, roadway conditions or organized events or other necessary roadway safety information.
2. It defines “safety service patrol vehicle” to mean a vehicle, equipped with a variable-message sign, used or contracted by the Department of Transportation or the Maine Turnpike Authority to assist with traffic incidents and improve roadway safety.
3. It allows the operator of a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle to use a variable-message sign on that vehicle to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic accidents, maintenance operations, adverse weather conditions, roadway conditions or organized events or other necessary roadway safety information. The messages on the variable-message sign mounted to a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle is limited to right or left arrows or the words “slow down,” “move over,” “accident ahead,” “crash ahead” or other similar language approved by rule.
4. It allows the operator of a wrecker to use a variable-message sign on that vehicle while the vehicle is stationary and engaged in roadside repair, loading or unloading a vehicle or performing vehicle recovery. The messages on a variable-message sign on a wrecker is limited to amber lights that create a right or left arrow or the words “slow down” or “move over.”
5. It requires a variable-message sign on a wrecker, police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle to be displayed facing traffic behind the vehicle and prohibits the variable-message sign from exceeding the width of the vehicle on which it is mounted.
6. It allows the Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner’s designee to adopt routine technical rules to implement the law.

Public Law 2025, chapter 546 enacted as an emergency measure effective March 3, 2026.