

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**127th Maine State Legislature
Committee Activity**

Committee: Transportation

LD: 37

Title: An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or
Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department

Public Hearing(s): 02/12/15 1:00 PM

Work Session(s): 02/26/15 1:00 PM

Reported Out: 04/01/2015

Committee Report(s): OTP-AM

Committee History: 2/26/2015 4:50:18 PM Work Session Held
2/26/2015 4:50:29 PM Voted



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

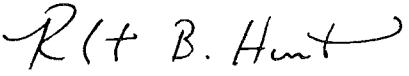
No. 37

H.P. 35

House of Representatives, January 13, 2015

**An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a
Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical
Services Department**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶C,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 462, §4, is
3 further amended to read:

4 C. The use of amber lights on vehicles is governed by the following.

5 (1) A vehicle engaged in highway maintenance or in emergency rescue
6 operations by emergency management and public safety agencies and a public
7 utility emergency service vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit
8 an amber light.

9 (1-A) A Department of Labor motor vehicle operated by a workplace safety
10 inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

11 (2) A wrecker must be equipped with a flashing light mounted on top of the
12 vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber light over a ~~360°~~ 360-degree angle.
13 The light must be in use on a public way or a place where public traffic may
14 reasonably be anticipated when servicing, freeing, loading, unloading or towing a
15 vehicle.

16 (3) A vehicle engaged in snow removal or sanding operations on a public way
17 must be equipped with and display an auxiliary light that provides visible light
18 coverage over a ~~360°~~ 360-degree range. The light must emit an amber beam of
19 light and be equipped with a blinking or strobe light function and have sufficient
20 intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal daylight. When the left wing of a
21 plow is in operation and extends over the center of the road, an auxiliary light
22 must show the extreme end of the left wing. That light may be attached to the
23 vehicle so that the beam of light points at the left wing. The light illuminating
24 the left wing may be controlled by a separate switch or by the regular lighting
25 system and must be in operation at all times when the vehicle is used for plowing
26 snow on public ways.

27 (4) A vehicle equipped and used for plowing snow on other than public ways
28 may be equipped with an auxiliary rotary flashing light that must be mounted on
29 top of the vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber beam of light over a ~~360°~~
30 360-degree angle, or an amber strobe, or combination of strobes, that emits at a
31 minimum a beam of 50 candlepower and provides visible light coverage over a
32 ~~360°~~ 360-degree range. The light may be in use on a public way only when the
33 vehicle is entering the public way in the course of plowing private driveways and
34 other off-highway locations.

35 (5) A rural mail vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights.

36 (a) The lights used to the front must be white or amber, or any shade
37 between white and amber.

38 (b) The lights used to the rear must be amber or red, or any shade between
39 amber and red.

40 (c) The lights, whether used to the front or rear, must be mounted at the
41 same level and as widely spaced laterally as possible.

- 1 (d) The lights, whether used to the front or rear, must flash simultaneously.
- 2 (e) The lights must be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in normal
- 3 daylight.
- 4 (6) A vehicle used or provided by a contract security company to assist in traffic
- 5 control and direction at construction or maintenance sites on a public way may be
- 6 equipped with amber auxiliary lights.
- 7 (7) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by a motor carrier inspector
- 8 or motor vehicle inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an
- 9 amber light.
- 10 (8) A vehicle used by an animal control officer appointed pursuant to Title 7,
- 11 section 3947 may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber
- 12 light.
- 13 (9) A refuse, garbage or trash business vehicle used by an individual to transport
- 14 refuse, garbage and trash may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a
- 15 flashing amber light.
- 16 (10) A vehicle used by an individual to transport and deliver newspapers may be
- 17 equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.
- 18 (11) A vehicle used by a member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or
- 19 an emergency medical service may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an
- 20 amber light as permitted by paragraph F.

21 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 299, §1, is

22 further amended to read:

23 F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail vehicles as provided in paragraph

24 C, subparagraph (5) and school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red

25 auxiliary or emergency light.

26 (1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an emergency medical service

27 vehicle, a fire department vehicle, a fire vehicle, a rescue vehicle or a hazardous

28 material response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination of red and white

29 light.

30 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal

31 officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a

32 municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and

33 white flashing auxiliary light mounted ~~as near as practicable above the front~~

34 ~~registration plate on the front of the vehicle, behind the rearview mirror in the~~

35 windshield or on the dashboard or, 2 flashing red or combination red and white

36 auxiliary lights mounted on the front of the vehicle above the front bumper and

37 below the hood and red, amber or combination red and amber auxiliary lights

38 mounted in the rear window area. The light or lights may be displayed but may

39 be used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other

40 emergency. A light mounted on the dashboard or ~~behind the rearview mirror in~~

41 the windshield must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with

1 the operator's vision. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the fire
2 chief.
3 (3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency
4 Medical Services may display and use on a vehicle red or combination red and
5 white ~~combination~~ flashing auxiliary lights and red, amber or combination red
6 and amber auxiliary lights of the same proportion, in the same location and under
7 the same conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer firefighters,
8 when authorized by the chief official of the emergency medical service. The use
9 of lights may be revoked at any time by the chief official of the emergency
10 medical service.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill increases the number of emergency lights allowed on personal vehicles used
13 by firefighters and emergency medical service personnel by increasing the number of
14 such lights allowed on the front of the vehicles and allowing such lights on the rear of the
15 vehicles.

STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE NOTICES

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Sen. Ronald Collins, Senate Chair
Rep. Andrew McLean, House Chair

PUBLIC HEARING: Thursday, February 12, 2015, 1:00 PM, State House, Room 126

- (L.D. 14) Bill "An Act Regarding the Registration of an Antique Motor Vehicle That Is the Owner's Sole Vehicle" (SP0015) (Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox) (Cosponsored by Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, Senator ALFOND of Cumberland, Senator GERZOSKY of Cumberland, Senator HASKELL of Cumberland, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Representative SUKEFORTH of Appleton)
- (L.D. 31) Bill "An Act To Require Horse-drawn Carriages and Wagons To Be Equipped with Reflectors" (HP0030) (Presented by Representative STANLEY of Medway) (Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of York, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Representative SCHNECK of Bangor, Representative MARTIN of Sinclair, Representative LONG of Sherman, Representative CHIPMAN of Portland, Representative DION of Portland, Representative WARD of Holden, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston)
- (L.D. 37) Bill "An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department" (HP0035) (Presented by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship)
- (L.D. 50) Bill "An Act To Authorize up to 3 Free Sets of License Plates for 100 Percent Disabled Veterans" (HP0044) (Presented by Representative POULIOT of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis, Representative BATTLE of South Portland, Representative HOBART of Bowdoinham, Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln, Representative PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, Representative FARRIN of Norridgewock)
- (L.D. 73) Bill "An Act To Increase Weight Allowances for Farm Trucks" (HP0067) (Presented by Representative BLACK of Wilton) (Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin, Senator MASON of Androscoggin, Representative MCCABE of Skowhegan, Representative KINNEY of Knox, Representative PARRY of Arundel, Representative HOBART of Bowdoinham, Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner, Representative LONG of Sherman, Representative SAUCIER of Presque Isle)

CONTACT PERSON:

Darlene Simoneau
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100
287-4148

Postponed

WORK SESSION AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION

2/19/2015

9:30 AM

State House, Room 126

- (L.D. 14) Bill "An Act Regarding the Registration of an Antique Motor Vehicle That Is the Owner's Sole Vehicle" (SP0015) (Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox) (Cosponsored by Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, Senator HASKELL of Cumberland, Senator ALFOND of Cumberland, Senator GERZOFKY of Cumberland, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Representative SUKEFORTH of Appleton)
- (L.D. 31) Bill "An Act To Require Horse-drawn Carriages and Wagons To Be Equipped with Reflectors" (HP0030) (Presented by Representative STANLEY of Medway) (Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of York, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Representative SCHNECK of Bangor, Representative MARTIN of Sinclair, Representative LONG of Sherman, Representative CHIPMAN of Portland, Representative DION of Portland, Representative WARD of Dedham, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston)
- (L.D. 37) Bill "An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department" (HP0035) (Presented by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship)
- (L.D. 50) Bill "An Act To Authorize up to 3 Free Sets of License Plates for 100 Percent Disabled Veterans" (HP0044) (Presented by Representative POULIOT of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis, Representative BATTLE of South Portland, Representative HOBART of Bowdoinham, Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln, Representative PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, Representative FARRIN of Norridgewock)

CONTACT PERSON:

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100 State House Station
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WORK SESSION AGENDA

TRANSPORTATION

2/26/2015

1:00 PM

State House, Room 126

- (L.D. 173) Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Gold Star Family Registration Plate and To Establish an Honorable Service Military Family Registration Plate" (HP0131) (Presented by Representative FOLEY of Wells) (Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of York, Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln, Representative FREDETTE of Newport, Representative KINNEY of Limington, Representative PRESCOTT of North Waterboro, Representative GERRISH of Lebanon, Representative BUCKLAND of Farmington)
- (L.D. 14) Bill "An Act Regarding the Registration of an Antique Motor Vehicle That Is the Owner's Sole Vehicle" (SP0015) (Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox) (Cosponsored by Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, Senator ALFOND of Cumberland, Senator GERZOFISKY of Cumberland, Senator HASKELL of Cumberland, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Representative SUKEFORTH of Appleton)
- (L.D. 31) Bill "An Act To Require Horse-drawn Carriages and Wagons To Be Equipped with Reflectors" (HP0030) (Presented by Representative STANLEY of Medway) (Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of York, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot, Representative SCHNECK of Bangor, Representative MARTIN of Sinclair, Representative LONG of Sherman, Representative WARD of Dedham, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, Representative CHIPMAN of Portland, Representative DION of Portland)
- (L.D. 37) Bill "An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department" (HP0035) (Presented by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship)
- (L.D. 50) Bill "An Act To Authorize up to 3 Free Sets of License Plates for 100 Percent Disabled Veterans" (HP0044) (Presented by Representative POULIOT of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis, Representative BATTLE of South Portland, Representative HOBART of Bowdoinham, Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln, Representative PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, Representative FARRIN of Norridgewock)
- (L.D. 171) Bill "An Act To Provide a License Plate Decal for Emergency Medical Services Providers" (HP0129) (Presented by Representative HEAD of Bethel) (Cosponsored by Representative ALLEY of Beals, Representative MALABY of Hancock, Representative TUELL of East Machias, Representative CRAFTS of Lisbon, Representative PETERSON of Rumford, Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, Representative PICKETT of East Dixfield)
- (L.D. 28) Bill "An Act To Return Fifty Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred" (HP0027) (Presented by Representative SHORT of Pittsfield) (Cosponsored by Senator DUTREMBLE of York, Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston, Representative HARLOW of Portland, Representative STANLEY of Medway, Representative VEROW of Brewer, Representative GILBERT of Jay, Representative DEVIN of Newcastle, Representative NOON of Sanford)
- (L.D. 78) Bill "An Act Regarding Limitations on Certain Storm Water Fees" (SP0026) (Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, Senator COLLINS of York, Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland, Senator ROSEN of Hancock, Representative ROTUNDO of Lewiston, Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston, Representative VEROW of Brewer, Representative MCLEAN of Gorham, Representative BROOKS of Lewiston)
- (L.D. 115) Bill "Resolve, To Name Interstate 295 from Scarborough to West Gardiner the Richard A. Coleman Highway" (SP0048) (Presented by Senator KATZ of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta, Representative DOORE of Augusta, Representative FOWLE of Vassalboro)

CONTACT PERSON:

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TESTIMONY SIGN IN SHEET

Joint Standing Committee on TRANSPORTATION

L.D. # 37

Title: Bill "An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department"

Date: 2/12/15

[illegible]



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony in support of LD 37, "**An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department**".
By Request.

Presented by Representative Jeffrey Evangelos, House District 91. Presented to the Transportation Committee, Thursday, February 12, 2015.

Good afternoon Senator Collins, Representative McLean, and other distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. I am Representative Jeffrey Evangelos from Friendship and I represent House District 91. I am speaking today in support of LD-37, "An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department".

I submitted this bill on behalf of some of my volunteer local emergency responders who use their personal vehicles to get to the scene of a fire or accident, or to their local fire station or ambulance station. The only motive behind this requested bill is public safety. Responders who are responding as fast as possible to an emergency are worried about other vehicles on the road having every visual opportunity to see them coming so they can clear the way to the side of the road. This bill will enhance their visibility, help avoid unneeded accidents, and add a dimension to public safety.

Thank you for your consideration.



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Maine State Police
Traffic Safety Unit
State House Station 20
Augusta, Maine
04333-0020

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JOHN E MORRIS
COMMISSIONER

COL. ROBERT A. WILLIAMS
CHIEF

LT. COL. RAYMOND A. BESSETTE
DEPUTY CHIEF

Testimony of Lt. Brian Scott

IN OPPOSITION TO LD 37

**AN ACT REGARDING EMERGENCY LIGHTS ON A VEHICLE USED BY A MEMBER OF A
MUNICIPAL OR VOLUNTEER FIRE OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Senator Collins, Representative McLean, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Lt. Brian Scott, and I am the commanding officer of the State Police Traffic Safety Unit. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Maine Department of Public Safety in Opposition to LD 37 "AN ACT REGARDING EMERGENCY LIGHTS ON A VEHICLE USED BY A MEMBER OF A MUNICIPAL OR VOLUNTEER FIRE OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT."

Current statute allows members of a municipal or volunteer fire department or an emergency medical service to use a red or combination red and white light on only the front of their vehicle if approved by the agency's chief. The number, location and usage of these lights are restricted by statute.

This bill would allow additional red or combination red and white lights on the front of these vehicles as well as allowing red, amber or combination red and amber lights to be displayed through the rear window.

We would support additional lights on the front of these vehicles and lights facing the rear, but not the use of amber or amber combination lights. The color of the auxiliary light(s) on a vehicle usually signifies the type of vehicle that you are encountering. For example, amber lights are typically associated with plow trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, garbage trucks, wreckers, public utility vehicles and similar type vehicles. Red lights are typically associated with fire and EMS vehicles. Blue lights are typically associated with police vehicles.

We fear that amber lights on fire or EMS vehicles could be confusing to the motoring public since this color has never been clearly associated with fire or EMS vehicles in Maine.

For this reason I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 37, unless it is amended to exclude the authorization of amber lights.

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police, I thank you for your time and would be happy to try and answer any questions that you might have.

INTEGRITY * FAIRNESS * COMPASSION * EXCELLENCE

Offices located at: 36 Hospital Street, Augusta Maine
(207) 624-8939 (Voice) (888) 524-7900 (TDD) (207) 624-8945 (Fax)

Testimony by Curtis Bramhall for LD-37

Light Law

Good afternoon everyone and thank you for having me here to speak on behalf of the Fire and EMS personal for the proposed change to the title 29 red light law.

The proposed change is to allow the addition of warning lights for fire and ems personal vehicles. The current law only allows one red or red and white dash light or 2 grill mounted lights. What is being proposed is the allowance of dash and grill lighting and the addition of rear mounted warning being red or red amber. It will still be up to the chief or director of department to decide who may or may not use this privilege.

With the advancement of safety being seen in all other aspects of fire and ems, I believe it is time to improve safety for the volunteers who are responding in their personal vehicles. If this bill is to pass, it will increase awareness to the public of responders en route or on the scene of an emergency. This will benefit both safety for the public and safety for the responders.

The majority of fire departments in Maine are volunteer. This means the fire and ems personal responding to an emergency are coming from their homes, there places of work, etc. Many of the emergencies we as first responders respond to are time sensitive;

The 5 extra minutes it took to gain the attention of drivers and move through the traffic could mean life or death.

For example, the quicker ems responders can get to the scene of a cardiac incident the greater the chance is that the patient will survive and the quicker a fire department can get to a fire the greater the chance of being able to save someone's house ~~the house~~

So why would we not help in any way possible to reduce response times in a profession where time is of the essence

→ next page

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: February 19, 2015
To: Transportation Committee
From: Karen Nadeau-Drillen, Legislative Analyst

LD 37 - An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department

SUMMARY

This bill increases the number of emergency lights allowed on personal vehicles used by firefighters and emergency medical service personnel by increasing the number of such lights allowed on the front of the vehicles and allowing such lights on the rear of the vehicles.

TESTIMONY

Proponents: <i>Residents of Cushing, Friendship and Whitefield (local volunteer firefighters and EMTs)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bill would improve safety for the volunteers who are responding (via a personal vehicle) to an emergency scene.• Improves safety for members of the public and the responders.• The quicker EMS responders can get to scene of incident, the greater the chance the patient will survive.• Would like bill to go farther with 360-degree lights. NFNA: <i>None</i>	Opponents: <i>Maine State Police</i> <i>Maine Fire Chiefs' Association</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current law allows members of a municipal or volunteer FD or EMS to use a red or combination red and white light on only the front of their vehicle if approved by the agency's chief.• We support additional lights on the front of these vehicles and lights facing the rear, but not the use of amber or amber combination lights.• We understand safety issues, but there are other ways to improve safety.• ME DOL, Bureau of Labor Standards offer safety classes for volunteer FDs.• Authorizing more lights may lead to volunteers responding to scene more quickly than they should be.
--	--

CURRENT LAW:

(2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and white flashing auxiliary light mounted as near as practicable above the front registration plate on the front of the vehicle, behind the rearview mirror or on the dashboard or 2 flashing red or combination red and white auxiliary lights mounted on the front of the vehicle above the front bumper and below the hood. The light or lights may be displayed but may be used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency. A light mounted on the dashboard or behind the rearview mirror must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the fire chief.

(3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use on a vehicle red or red and white combination flashing auxiliary lights of the same proportion, in the same location and under the same conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer firefighters, when authorized by the chief official of the emergency medical service. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the chief official of the emergency medical service.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not yet determined.

Committee: Transportation

LA: KND

File Name: G:\COMMITTEES\TRA\AMENDS\127th 1st\003502.doc

LR (item)#: 003502

New Title?: N

Add Emergency?: N

Date: March 1, 2014

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT TO LD 37, AN ACT REGARDING EMERGENCY LIGHTS ON A VEHICLE USED BY A MEMBER OF A MUNICIPAL OR VOLUNTEER FIRE OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Amend the bill in section 1 as follows:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2013, c. 462, §4, is further amended to read:

C. The use of amber lights on vehicles is governed by the following.

(1) A vehicle engaged in highway maintenance or in emergency rescue operations by emergency management and public safety agencies and a public utility emergency service vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

(1-A) A Department of Labor motor vehicle operated by a workplace safety inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

(2) A wrecker must be equipped with a flashing light mounted on top of the vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber light over a ~~360~~360-degree angle. The light must be in use on a public way or a place where public traffic may reasonably be anticipated when servicing, freeing, loading, unloading or towing a vehicle.

(3) A vehicle engaged in snow removal or sanding operations on a public way must be equipped with and display an auxiliary light that provides visible light coverage over a ~~360~~360-degree range. The light must emit an amber beam of light and be equipped with a blinking or strobe light function and have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal daylight. When the left wing of a plow is in operation and extends over the center of the road, an auxiliary light must show the extreme end of the left wing. That light may be attached to the vehicle so that the beam of light points at the left wing. The light illuminating the left wing may be controlled by a separate switch or by the regular lighting system and must be in operation at all times when the vehicle is used for plowing snow on public ways.

(4) A vehicle equipped and used for plowing snow on other than public ways may be equipped with an auxiliary rotary flashing light that must be mounted on top of the vehicle in such a manner as to emit an amber beam of light over a ~~360~~360-degree

angle, or an amber strobe, or combination of strobes, that emits at a minimum a beam of 50 candlepower and provides visible light coverage over a ~~360~~360-degree range. The light may be in use on a public way only when the vehicle is entering the public way in the course of plowing private driveways and other off-highway locations.

(5) A rural mail vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights.

(a) The lights used to the front must be white or amber, or any shade between white and amber.

(b) The lights used to the rear must be amber or red, or any shade between amber and red.

(c) The lights, whether used to the front or rear, must be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as possible.

(d) The lights, whether used to the front or rear, must flash simultaneously.

(e) The lights must be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in normal daylight.

(6) A vehicle used or provided by a contract security company to assist in traffic control and direction at construction or maintenance sites on a public way may be equipped with amber auxiliary lights.

(7) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by a motor carrier inspector or motor vehicle inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light.

(8) A vehicle used by an animal control officer appointed pursuant to Title 7, section 3947 may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.

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

(10) A vehicle used by an individual to transport and deliver newspapers may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.

~~(11) A vehicle used by a member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or an emergency medical service may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an amber light as permitted by paragraph F.~~

Amend the bill in section 2 as follows:

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 2005, c. 299, §1, is further amended to read:

F. Only vehicles listed in this paragraph, rural mail vehicles as provided in paragraph C, subparagraph (5) and school buses may be equipped with, display or use a red auxiliary or emergency light.

(1) Emergency lights used on an ambulance, an emergency medical service vehicle, a fire department vehicle, a fire vehicle, a rescue vehicle or a hazardous material response vehicle must emit a red light or a combination of red and white light.

(2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and white flashing auxiliary light mounted ~~as near as practicable above the front registration plate on the front of the vehicle, behind the rearview mirror in the windshield or on the dashboard at the front of the vehicle or,~~ 2 flashing red or combination red and white auxiliary lights mounted on the front of the vehicle above the front bumper and below the hood ~~and one red, amber or combination red and amber auxiliary lights light mounted in the rear window area.~~ The light or lights may be displayed but may be used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency. A light mounted on the dashboard or ~~behind the rearview mirror in the windshield~~ must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the fire chief.

(3) Members of an emergency medical service licensed by Maine Emergency Medical Services may display and use on a vehicle red or combination red and white ~~combination~~ flashing auxiliary lights ~~and red, amber or combination red and amber auxiliary lights~~ of the same proportion, in the same location and under the same conditions as those permitted municipal and volunteer firefighters, when authorized by the chief official of the emergency medical service. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the chief official of the emergency medical service.

SUMMARY

This amendment allows one red auxiliary emergency light to be mounted on the rear of personal vehicles used by firefighters and emergency medical service personnel. It does not provide for the use of amber auxiliary lights on personal vehicles used by firefighters and emergency service personnel as proposed in the bill.

Sm 6
R of S

L.D. 37

Date:

(Filing No. H-)

TRANSPORTATION

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 127TH LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to H.P. 35, L.D. 37, Bill, "An Act Regarding
Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or
Emergency Medical Services Department"

Amend the bill in section 1 in paragraph C by striking out all of subparagraph (11)
(page 2, lines 18 to 20 in L.D.)

Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph F by striking out all of subparagraph (2)
(page 2, lines 30 to 41 and page 3, lines 1 and 2 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'(2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal
officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and
white flashing auxiliary light mounted ~~as near as practicable above the front
registration plate on the front of the vehicle, behind the rearview mirror in the
windshield~~ or on the dashboard at the front of the vehicle or 2 flashing red or
combination red and white auxiliary lights mounted on the front of the vehicle
above the front bumper and below the hood and one red auxiliary light mounted
in the rear window area. The light or lights may be displayed but may be used
only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency.
A light mounted on the dashboard or ~~behind the rearview mirror in the
windshield~~ must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the
operator's vision. The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the fire chief.'

Amend the bill in section 2 in paragraph F in subparagraph (3) in the 3rd and 4th
lines (page 3, lines 5 and 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "amber or
combination red and amber"

SUMMARY

This amendment allows one red auxiliary emergency light to be mounted on the rear
of personal vehicles used by firefighters and emergency medical service personnel. It

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to H.P. 35, L.D. 37

- 1 removes from the bill permission for firefighters and emergency service personnel to use
- 2 amber auxiliary lights on personal vehicles.



Approved: 03/27/15 *mac*

127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 37

LR 35(01)

**An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer
Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department**

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. Evangelos of Friendship

Committee: Transportation

Fiscal Note Required: No

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

No fiscal impact

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

LD: 37

Date: Feb 26 2015

Motion: OTPA

Motion by: Rep Mullen

Seconded by: Rep McLean

	Recommendation of those opposed to the Motion					Absent	Abstain

	Those Voting in Favor of the Motion	Recommendation of those opposed to the Motion					Absent	Abstain
Rep Verow	✓							
Rep Hobart	✓							
Rep Hogan	✓							
Rep Powers	✓							
Sen Rosen	✓							
Sen Diamond	✓							
Sen Collins	✓							
Rep McLean	✓							
Rep Parry	✓							
Rep Bryant	✓							
Rep Gillway	✓							
Rep Golden	✓							
Rep Farrin	✓							
TOTALS								

COMMITTEE VOTING TALLY SHEET

LD # or Confirmation: LD 37

Committee: Transportation

Date: 02/26/2015

Motion: Ought To Pass As Amended

Motion by: Rep. Gillway

Seconded by: Rep. McLean

Those Voting in Favor of the Motion	Recommendation of those opposed to the Motion					Absent	Abstain

Senators

Sen. Collins	X						
Sen. Diamond	X						
Sen. Rosen	X						

Representatives

Rep. McLean	X						
Rep. Bryant	X						
Rep. Farrin	X						
Rep. Gillway	X						
Rep. Golden	X						
Rep. Hobart	X						
Rep. Hogan	X						
Rep. Parry	X						
Rep. Powers	X						
Rep. Verow	X						

HOUSE REPORT

THE COMMITTEE ON Transportation

to which was referred the following:

An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on a Vehicle Used by a Member of a Municipal or Volunteer Fire or Emergency Medical Services Department

H.P. 35

L.D. 37

has had the same under consideration, and asks leave to report that the same
OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " "


(Signature) REP. MCLEAN

of Gorham
For the Committee

(Type)
Rep. of (Town) and/or Sen. of (County)

(Signatures)

HOUSE REPORT