



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 710

H.P. 501

House of Representatives, February 28, 2017

An Act Regarding Emergency Lights on Firefighters' Personal Vehicles Used When Responding to Emergency Calls

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative STEWART of Presque Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook and
Representatives: HARRINGTON of Sanford, THERIAULT of China.

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 2015, c. 31, §2, is
3 further amended to read:

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

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

11 (2) The municipal officers or a municipal official designated by the municipal
12 officers, with the approval of the fire chief, may authorize an active member of a
13 municipal or volunteer fire department to use one red or combination red and
14 white flashing auxiliary light mounted in the windshield or on the dashboard at
15 the front of the vehicle or 2 flashing red or combination red and white auxiliary
16 lights mounted on the front of the vehicle above the front bumper and below the
17 hood and one red auxiliary light mounted in the rear window area or 2 flashing
18 red or combination red and white auxiliary lights mounted on the rear of the
19 vehicle above the rear bumper. The light or lights may be displayed but may be
20 used only while the member is en route to or at the scene of a fire or other
21 emergency. A light mounted on the dashboard or in the windshield must be
22 shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision.
23 The use of lights may be revoked at any time by the fire chief.

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

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill allows municipal and volunteer firefighters who are responding to
33 emergency calls in personal vehicles to use red or red and white emergency lights on the
34 rear of the vehicles similar to those permitted to be used on the front of the vehicles.