



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 327

S.P. 123

In Senate, February 12, 2013

**An Act To Allow Media Motor Vehicles To Be Equipped with
Amber Auxiliary Lights**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative THERIAULT of Madawaska and
Senator: MAZUREK of Knox, Representative: SAUCIER of Presque Isle.

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 2011, c. 448, §2, 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 civil defense and public safety agencies and a public utility
7 emergency service vehicle may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an
8 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° angle. The light
13 must be in use on a public way or a place where public traffic may reasonably be
14 anticipated when servicing, freeing, loading, unloading or towing a vehicle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 (e) The lights must be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in normal
2 daylight.
- 3 (6) A vehicle used or provided by a contract security company to assist in traffic
4 control and direction at construction or maintenance sites on a public way may be
5 equipped with amber auxiliary lights.
- 6 (7) A Department of Public Safety vehicle operated by a motor carrier inspector
7 or motor vehicle inspector may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit an
8 amber light.
- 9 (8) A vehicle used by an animal control officer appointed pursuant to Title 7,
10 section 3947 may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber
11 light.
- 12 (9) A refuse, garbage or trash business vehicle used by an individual to transport
13 refuse, garbage and trash may be equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a
14 flashing amber light.
- 15 (10) A vehicle used by an individual to transport and deliver newspapers may be
16 equipped with auxiliary lights that emit a flashing amber light.
- 17 (11) A vehicle used or provided by a media company may be equipped with
18 amber auxiliary lights, which may be used only when the vehicle is at an accident
19 site on a public way. For purposes of this subparagraph, "media company"
20 means a radio or television station, a cable television system or a newspaper.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill allows a media company vehicle to be equipped with amber auxiliary lights
23 and to use those lights only if that vehicle is at an accident site on a public way.