

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1321

H.P. 973

House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

An Act To Provide Protection for Tractors When Using Public Ways

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative KINNEY of Knox. Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and

Representative: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

1 2	Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
3 4	Whereas, Maine is a rural state and its farmers and citizens who work the land often are required to travel on public ways in the course of farming activity; and
5 6	Whereas, the safety of farmers driving tractors on public ways is an important issue requiring immediate attention; and
7 8	Whereas, another growing season and farmers driving tractors on public ways will commence before the 90-day period has expired; and
9 10 11 12	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
13	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
14	Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1605, sub-§9 is enacted to read:
15 16 17	9. Tractors. An insurance policy required under this chapter must provide coverage for damage to a tractor that is lawfully operating on a public way for which the policyholder is liable through operation of the motor vehicle.
18	Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2070, sub-§8 is enacted to read:
19 20 21	8. Tractors. An operator of a motor vehicle passing a tractor proceeding in the same direction that is lawfully operating on a public way, with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, shall:
22	A. Pass in a lane not adjacent to that of the tractor, if possible; or
23 24	B. If passing in a nonadjacent lane is impossible or unsafe, pass the tractor at a careful and prudent speed.
25 26	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.
27	SUMMARY
28 29 30 31	This bill requires an insurance liability policy required for a motor vehicle to provide coverage for damage caused by that insured vehicle to a tractor lawfully operating on a public way. The bill requires that motor vehicle drivers pass in a lane not adjacent to the tractor or otherwise pass the tractor at a careful and prudent speed.