



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1568

H.P. 1026

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

An Act to Allow the Use of a Siren in a Vehicle Used by a Harbor Master or Deputy Harbor Master

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT

Clerk

Presented by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and
Representative: RIELLY of Westbrook.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation allows a municipality to authorize the use of a siren in a motor vehicle operated by a harbor master or deputy harbor master when responding to an emergency call; and

Whereas, it is imperative that this legislation take effect before the start of the boating season; and

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,

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 2023, c. 131, §1, is further amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) A municipality may authorize a harbor master or deputy harbor master appointed under Title 38, section 1 or 2, respectively, to use one red or combination red and white flashing auxiliary light mounted in the windshield or on the dashboard at the front of a 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 harbor master or deputy harbor master is responding to a watercraft emergency. A light mounted on the dashboard or in the windshield must be shielded so that the emitted light does not interfere with the operator's vision. Notwithstanding subsection 3, a municipality may also authorize the use of a siren in a motor vehicle operated by the harbor master or deputy harbor master when responding to a watercraft emergency. The authorization for the use of lights or a siren may be revoked at any time by the municipality.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill allows a municipality to authorize the use of a siren in a motor vehicle operated by a harbor master or deputy harbor master when responding to an emergency call.