

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—
H.P. 1026 - L.D. 1568

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

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-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 319, §1 and c. 397, §25, is further amended by amending subparagraph (22) to read:

(22) A University of Maine System vehicle operated by a University of Maine System police officer; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 319, §1 and c. 397, §25, is further amended by amending subparagraph (23) to read:

(23) A life support transport vehicle when parked on a Department of Transportation ferry vessel and being used to transport a person who requires constant medical support to survive; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 319, §1 and c. 397, §25, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (24) to read:

(24) A municipal vehicle operated by a harbor master appointed by a municipal officer pursuant to Title 38, section 1 or a deputy harbor master appointed pursuant to Title 38, section 2.

Sec. 4. 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. The authorization for the use of lights or a siren may be revoked at any time by the municipality.

A vehicle described in this subparagraph may be operated only when exercising emergency privileges by a person who has completed an emergency vehicle operation course provided by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police. A municipality may authorize an authorized emergency vehicle owned by a municipality and operated by a harbor master or deputy harbor master as described in subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (24) to be equipped with a siren in addition to authorized lights pursuant to this subparagraph.

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