



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Maine State Police
Traffic Safety Unit
State House Station 20
Augusta, Maine
04333-0020

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Testimony of Lt. Randall Keaten

IN SUPPORT OF LD 2068

An Act to Bring the Law Governing Emergency Equipment for Trucks and Truck Tractors into Alignment with Federal Motor Carrier Laws.

Senator Nangle, Rep. Crafts, and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Lt. Randall Keaten, and I am the Commanding Officer of the State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police in Support of LD 2068.

This bill, would help move Maine closer to compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and bring current old terminology and equipment no longer in use. DPS is in full support of these changes but asks to consider using current language in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to identify reflective triangles as "Bidirectional Emergency Reflective Triangles".

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Bidirectional Reflective Triangles are effective from two directions which is important to alerting traffic from both directions when a vehicle becomes disabled. It is a concern that someone may use traditional farm triangles to fulfill this requirement which are reflective from only one direction. Using the term "Bidirectional Reflective Triangle" will bring this State statute within parity with the requirements of 49 CFR 393.95(f) standardizing the expectations for all road users.

29-A MRSA 1952 currently also requires 3 flares and 3 triangles. It is our recommendation that the word "and" be changed to "or" to bring this section into alignment with current Federal Regulations. 49 CFR 393.95 (g) where flares and flammable signal devices are prohibited on vehicles carrying combustible or hazmat materials. Changing "and" to "or" will allow drivers to select the appropriate signal device for the loads that they are transporting.

For these reasons, with these edits, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2068.

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police, I thank you for your time and would be happy to try and answer any questions that you might have.

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