

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

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Legislative Document

No. 2005

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S.P. 707

In Senate, January 8, 2020

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### **An Act To Amend the Law Governing Maximum Length Limits for Truck Tractor Semitrailers**

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Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.  
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 FARRIN of Somerset.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, ¶J,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 478, §1, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 J. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a single semitrailer whose  
5 total structural length exceeds 48 feet but does not exceed 53 feet may be operated in  
6 combination with a truck tractor on a highway network if the following conditions are  
7 met.

8 (1) The wheelbase of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the kingpin  
9 to the center of the rearmost axle of the semitrailer, may not exceed ~~43~~ 45 feet, 6  
10 inches.

11 (2) The kingpin setback of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the  
12 kingpin to the front of the semitrailer, may not exceed 3 1/2 feet in length.

13 (3) The rear overhang of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the  
14 center of the rear tandem axles of the semitrailer to the rear of the semitrailer,  
15 may not exceed 35% of the wheelbase of the semitrailer.

16 (4) The semitrailer must be equipped with a rear underride guard that is of  
17 sufficient strength to prevent a motor vehicle from penetrating underneath the  
18 semitrailer, extends across the rear of the semitrailer to within an average  
19 distance of 4 inches of the lateral extremities of the semitrailer, exclusive of  
20 safety bumper appurtenances, and is placed at a height not exceeding 22 inches  
21 from the surface of the ground as measured when the semitrailer is empty and is  
22 on a level surface.

23 (5) The semitrailer must be equipped with vehicle lights that comply with or  
24 exceed federal standards and reflective material approved by the Commissioner  
25 of Transportation that must be located on the semitrailer in a manner prescribed  
26 by the commissioner. The semitrailer must display a conspicuous warning on the  
27 rear of the semitrailer indicating that the vehicle combination has a wide turning  
28 radius.

29 (8) Except as provided in subparagraph (10), the overall length of the truck  
30 tractor and semitrailer combination of vehicles traveling beyond the national  
31 network may not exceed 74 feet, including all structural parts of the vehicle,  
32 permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle. For the  
33 purposes of this subparagraph, "national network" means those highways in the  
34 State identified under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix A to Part 658.

35 (9) Notwithstanding section 2380, the width of the semitrailer must be 102  
36 inches, except that the width of the rear safety bumper and appurtenances to the  
37 safety bumper may not exceed 103 inches and except that the width of a flatbed  
38 or lowboy semitrailer, measured as the distance between the outer surface edges  
39 of the semitrailer's tires, must be at least 96 inches but no more than 102 inches.

40 (10) For vehicles whose overall length exceeds 74 feet, including all structural  
41 parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the  
42 vehicle, access is permitted to service facilities or terminals within one mile of

1 the national network. For purposes of this subparagraph, "national network"  
2 means those highways in the State identified under 23 Code of Federal  
3 Regulations, Appendix A to Part 658.

4 (12) This vehicle combination may not transport cargo that has been prohibited  
5 for this vehicle combination by the Commissioner of Transportation.

6 (13) This paragraph does not apply to a trailer or semitrailer when transporting  
7 or returning empty from transporting a nondivisible load or object under the  
8 provisions of an overlimit permit granted by section 2382.

9 Nothing in this paragraph limits the authority of the department under Title 23,  
10 section 52 to adopt rules prohibiting or limiting access by semitrailers or other  
11 vehicles to a highway or portion of a highway or other segment of the transportation  
12 infrastructure in order to ensure public safety.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill increases the maximum length limit for the wheelbase of a semitrailer  
15 operated in combination with a truck tractor on a highway network to 45 feet, 6 inches.