

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair

Sen. Judy Paradis

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

Rep. Gary J. Wheeler

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CARRIED OVER.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session
CON RES XXX..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| O'NEAL | OTP-AM | H-380 H-506 JABAR S-257 O'GARA |

LD 2064 proposed to increase the maximum gross weight of farm trucks to 69,000 pounds. It also proposed that the Commissioner of Transportation and Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources annually establish a period coinciding with the potato harvest season during which the axle weight restrictions on farm trucks are waived.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-380) proposed to correct a fee amount proposed in the bill and clarify that the seasonal axle weight limit exemption applies only to farm vehicles transporting potatoes during the potato harvesting season from the field to a place of storage or processing and only when the vehicle complies with the gross weight limits of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, chapter 21 and has at least 8,000 pounds on the steering axle. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-506) proposed that the exemption from certain axle weight limits for farm vehicles transporting potatoes during the potato harvesting season does not apply on the Interstate Highway System, including the Maine Turnpike.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-257) proposed to replace the fiscal note on the committee amendment with a correct fiscal note.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 472 increases the maximum gross weight of farm trucks to 69,000 pounds and provides seasonal axle weight limit exemption for farm vehicles transporting potatoes during the potato harvesting season from the field to a place of storage or processing. The exemption applies only when the vehicle complies with the gross weight limits of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, chapter 21 and has at least 8,000 pounds on the steering axle. The exemption does not apply on the Interstate Highway System, including the Maine Turnpike.

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| LAWRENCE WHEELER G | OTP | |

LD 2081 proposed that commercial vehicle weight limits applied generally on the highways of the State also be applied on the Maine Turnpike and on certain portions of Interstate 95. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Transportation.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 164 applies commercial vehicle weight limits applied generally on the highways of the State to the Maine Turnpike and to certain portions of Interstate 95.