

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1120

H. P. 829

House of Representatives, February 24, 1971

Referred to Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hodgdon of Kittery.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Relating to Mobile Homes and Other Overlength, Overwidth
Vehicles in Transit.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 1703-A, additional. Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1703-A to read as follows:

§ 1703-A. Escort Service Registration Board

There is created an Escort Service Registration Board, hereinafter referred to as the "board" which shall be composed of the Chairman of the Highway Safety Committee, Chairman of the State Highway Commission, Chief of the State Police, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission and the Secretary of State, who shall act as chairman of the board. The board members shall not receive any compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. This shall apply as well to a delegate which any member may assign. The board shall be empowered to appoint and remove, subject to the Personnel Law, such employees as may be necessary to carry out this section. All fees received by the board shall be paid over to the Treasurer of State and shall be used for carrying out the purposes of this section. The board shall make such rules and regulations deemed necessary to establish reasonable standards for the regulation and operation of escort services, the licensing of any person operating thereunder and such other standards and fees as are deemed in the best interest of public safety.

No person shall engage in the business of escort services after January 1, 1972, without first obtaining a license from the board. The board shall issue a license upon the payment of such fee, as the board may establish, to any

person qualifying under the criteria established by the board in its rules and regulations.

“Escort services” as used in this section shall mean the use of motor vehicles as pilot cars, in lieu of state police cars, which precede or follow, or both, such overlength, overheight, overwidth or overweight vehicles which require permits under section 1703; and shall include persons who operate their own vehicle for hire, persons who rent out vehicles for such use and the operators of vehicles used in the service.

“Person” as used in this section shall mean any individual, firm or corporation and shall apply equally in the singular or plural.

Sec. 2. Application. Any escort service already operating in the State prior to January 1, 1972 shall be exempt from this Act.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Inasmuch as there are 3 major Escort Service Brokers in the area engaged in hiring or procuring escort vehicles that are required by the Maine State Highway Commission to protect the safety of the public for the movement of oversize loads within the State, the recent creation or proliferation of independent operators has come about which leads the 3 established brokers questioning their ability in qualifying and regulating their escort cars and drivers insofar as it pertains to insurance protection, equipment and driving records.

For this reason it would be desirable to have a regulating agency issue licenses, or exercise control over all existing broker escort services, providing they meet the basic requirements which would have all new applicants for broker escort service appear before the newly created regulating agency prior to their right to hire licensed escort vehicles and drivers.