

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2261

H. P. 1789

House of Representatives, January 2, 1974

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rollins of East Dixfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

**AN ACT to Change Weights and Related Provisions for
Commercial Vehicles.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 29, § 244, amended. The 7th paragraph and the 8th paragraph, as amended, of section 244 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

A driveway, towaway operation as defined by the Public Utilities Commission may include a combination of saddlemount vehicles not to exceed 3 units in contact with surface of the highway.

No motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicle and trailers or semi-trailers, except fire department vehicles and disabled motor vehicles being towed to a repair facility, shall exceed in length 65 feet overall, including all structural parts thereof, permanent or temporary, and any load carried thereon or therein, providing that the combination shall not exceed 65 feet in length. However, a combination of motor vehicle and semitrailer exclusively engaged in the transportation of motor vehicle shall be allowed to attain a maximum length of 55 feet, excluding the usual or ordinary bumper overhang of the transported vehicles.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 29, § 1652, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, amended. Paragraph A of subsection 1 of section 1652 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 1 of chapter 402 and as amended by section 92 of chapter 622, both of the public laws of 1971, is further amended to read as follows:

A. No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be operated, or caused to be operated, on or over any way or bridge when the gross weight, actual weight of vehicle and load, exceeds ~~73,280~~ 105,000 pounds. No vehicle having 2 axles shall be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 32,000 pounds, no vehicle having 3 axles shall be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds ~~51,800~~ 60,900 pounds and no vehicle having 4 axles shall be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds ~~66,300~~ 72,600 pounds, and no vehicle having 5 axles shall be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds ~~73,280~~ 90,000 pounds. The operation of the vehicle shall be prima facie evidence that said operation was caused by the person, firm or corporation holding the permit or certificate for said vehicle from the Public Utilities Commission.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 29, § 1652, sub-§ 1, ¶ B, repealed and replaced. Paragraph B of subsection 1 of section 1652 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 1 of chapter 402 of the public laws of 1971, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

B. Two or more axles less than 4 feet apart shall be considered as one axle and no group of axles shall carry a load in pounds in excess of the value given in the following table corresponding to the distance in feet between the extreme axles of the group, measured longitudinally to the nearest foot:

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of axles	3 axle vehicles	4 axle vehicles	5 axle vehicles	6 axle vehicles
4 to 7	37,100			
8	37,850			
9	38,950			
10	40,100			
11	41,200			
12	42,300			
13	43,400			
14	44,500	50,500		
15	45,600	51,450		
16	46,350	52,350		
17	47,750	53,300		
18	48,800	54,250	62,850	
19	49,850	55,150	64,000	
20	50,900	56,100	65,200	
21	51,950	57,050	66,350	
22	53,000	57,950	67,550	
23	54,050	58,900	68,700	
24	55,050	59,850	69,850	
25	56,100	60,800	71,050	
26	57,100	61,700	72,200	
27	58,100	62,650	73,350	

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of axles	3 axle vehicles	4 axle vehicles	5 axle vehicles	6 axle vehicles
28	59,100	63,600	74,550	
29	60,900	64,500	75,700	
30		65,450	76,900	
31		66,400	78,050	
32		67,350	79,200	
33		68,250	80,400	
34		69,200	81,550	
35		70,150	82,700	
36		71,050	83,900	
37		72,000	85,050	
38		72,600	86,200	
39			86,800	
40			90,000	
41				89,800
42				90,750
43				91,700
44				92,650
45				93,600
46				94,550
47				95,550
48				96,450
49				97,400
50				98,350
51				99,300
52				100,250
53				101,200
54				102,150
55				103,100
56				104,050
57				105,000

provided, that no vehicle shall have a gross weight imparted to any road surface of more than 24,000 pounds on any one axle.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 29, § 1652, sub-§ 1, §§ C, E, F and G, amended. Paragraphs C, E, F and G of subsection 1 of section 1652 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 1 of chapter 402 of the public laws of 1971, are amended to read as follows:

C. No vehicle having 2 or more axles less than 8 feet apart shall be operated, or caused to be operated, with more than ~~18,000~~ 24,000 pounds imparted to the road surface from either axle or ~~36,000~~ 48,000 pounds from both axles specifically excepting the Interstate Highway System as defined in the Federal Highway Act of 1956, and vehicles operating on said Interstate Highway System shall not exceed 32,000 pounds imparted from both axles.

E. All 3-axle trucks with brakes on the wheels of all axles may be operated for a gross weight of ~~46,000~~ 50,600 pounds with a distance between the extreme axles of not less than 16 feet.

F. All 3-axle trucks with brakes on the wheels of all axles, hauling forest products or raw ore from mine or quarry to place of processing, may be operated with a gross weight of ~~48,000~~ 52,800 pounds with a distance between extreme axles of not less than 18 feet.

G. All 3-axle trucks with the 2 rear axles driven and with brakes on the wheels of all axles, hauling forest products or raw ore from mine or quarry to place of processing, may be operated for a gross weight of ~~50,000~~ 55,000 pounds with a distance between extreme axles of not less than 18 feet.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 29, § 1652, sub-§ 1, ¶ H, repealed. Paragraph H of subsection 1 of section 1652 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 1 of chapter 402 of the public laws of 1971, is repealed.

Sec. 6. R. S., T. 29, § 1652, sub-§ 1, ¶¶ I and K, amended. Paragraphs I and K of subsection 1 of section 1652 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 1 of chapter 402 of the public laws of 1971, are amended to read as follows:

I. All 3-axle trucks with brakes on the wheels of all axles, hauling construction materials, may be operated for a gross weight of ~~48,000~~ 52,800 pounds with a distance between extreme axles of not less than 16 feet.

K. Additional weight limits provided for in paragraphs E and G ~~and H of this section~~ are not allowable on the Interstate Highway System.

Sec. 7. R. S., T. 29, § 1652, sub-§ 1, ¶ O, additional. Subsection 1 of section 1652 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 1 of chapter 402 of the public laws of 1971 and as amended, is further amended by adding a new paragraph O to read as follows:

O. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, but subject to section 1655, any 3-axle truck with brakes on all axles, equipped with an additional nondriven axle with an auxiliary air reservoir system with sufficient air supply to satisfy the brakes on such additional axle, with not less than 6" brakeshoes on all driven or trailing axles, and which exceeds 23 feet between the extremes of any group of axles, can be operated at a gross weight of 72,600 pounds.

Sec. 8. R. S., T. 29, § 1656, amended. The first paragraph of section 1656 of Title 29 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

No person shall operate, or cause to be operated, any truck, tractor, trailer or combination of truck tractor and semitrailer, with a gross weight that is more than 10% above that specified in the registration certificate for such vehicle for trucks of gross weight of not over 15,000 pounds and 5% for trucks of gross weight of over 15,000 pounds; provided that no motor vehicle of either a single unit or combined unit shall be operated on the highway with a gross weight that exceeds ~~73,200~~ 105,000 pounds.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill proposes to increase the length and weight limits for commercial vehicles as set forth above.

These changes are required by the current fuel situation and are justified by the increasing load capacity and safety features of modern trucks. The present laws have become unduly restrictive in light of these developments.

This proposal will update our truck weight and length requirements and will provide for safe and economical transportation with reduced fuel consumption and less air pollution.