

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 827

S. P. 269

In Senate, March 10, 1977

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Trotzky of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Permit the Commissioner of Transportation to Designate
Certain Highways for the use of Twin-Trailer Trucks.**

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

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 18, is amended to read:

18. **Trailer.** "Trailer" shall mean any vehicle without motive power, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, not operated on tracks, and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle and may include a semitrailer with a detachable converter dolly.

Sec. 2. 29 MRSA § 244, 6th ¶, is amended to read:

Only one trailer or semitrailer shall be drawn by a motor vehicle; provided that a tractor may draw a semi-trailer in combinations on ways designated by the Department of Transportation and provided further that driveway, tow-away operations, as defined by the Public Utilities Commission, may include a combination of saddlemount vehicles not to exceed 3 units in contact with the surface of the highway.

Sec. 3. 29 MRSA § 244, 7th ¶, sub-§ 2-A, is enacted to read:

2-A. **Combination tractor, semitrailer, trailer.** A combination consisting of a tractor, a semitrailer and a trailer shall not exceed 65 feet in length.

Sec. 4. 29 MRSA § 531, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 587, § 2, is amended to read:

1. **Class 1.** Any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, including "Class 2 or 3," except school bus, motorcycle or motor driven cycle provided that no person shall drive combinations consisting of a tractor, semitrailer and trailer until such driver has held this Class 1 license for a period of at least 3 years;

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit the Commissioner of Transportation to designate certain highways within the State where the use of twin-trailers, not to exceed 65 feet in length, will be allowed.

It is estimated that the use of twin-trailers will save over \$2,000,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year, resulting in the conservation of valuable petroleum. The use of twin-trailers will also lower transportation costs to Maine industries, putting them in a better competitive position.

Over 30 states allow twin-trailers to operate on certain of their highways.