

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1924

H. P. 1857

Office of the Clerk of the House

The Committee on Agriculture suggested. Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. McKean of Limestone

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-EIGHT

AN ACT Concerning Brake Requirements on Agricultural Vehicles.

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

29 MRSA § 1652, sub-§ 4, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 634, is further amended to read:

4. Brake requirements.

A. Every truck, tractor, truck tractor, trailer and semitrailer shall be equipped with adequate brakes acting on all wheels of all axles, except that:

(1) Any truck, tractor or truck tractor having 3 or more axles need not have brakes on the front wheels except when any such vehicle is equipped with 2 or more steerable axles the wheels of one such axle need not be equipped with brakes;

(2) any trailer or semitrailer not exceeding a gross weight of 3,000 pounds;

(3) Any vehicle towed by use of a wrecker; ~~and~~

(4) Any vehicle meeting braking requirements of the motor carrier safety regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation shall be considered adequate;

(5) Semitrailers designed and used exclusively to support the end of poles while being transported, commonly called pole dollies, with a gross weight of that semitrailer and load not to exceed 12,000 pounds shall be excluded from the provisions of this subsection until the 1985 registration year; and

(6) Any agricultural vehicle transporting agricultural products between growing areas and processing plants or storage areas may use dolly axles not equipped with brakes

provided the dolly axles are used for stability and safety and provided the vehicle does not violate the weight requirements for the fixed axles on the vehicle as outlined within chapter 11, subchapter VIII, article 2.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This legislation excludes the use of dolly axles from brake and booster requirements for agricultural vehicles. This exclusion is considered necessary for these axles are used for stability on the road and as a safeguard in case of a blown tire. Dolly axles are not used to increase the load limit of the vehicles as it is often believed. This bill is necessary for the 1978 growing and harvest season.