

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 189

7 S.P. 78

In Senate, January 17, 1983

8 Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 17, 1983. Referred to
9 the Committee on Transportation, and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule
14.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Usher of Cumberland.

Cosponsor: Representative Clark of Millinocket.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Clarify Motor Vehicle Laws
18 Affected by Federal Legislation.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §244, as amended by PL 1981, c.
23 492, Pt. E, §§3-7, is repealed and the following
24 enacted in its place:

25 §244. Trailers

26 1. Fees for registration. The annual fees for
27 the registration of trailers and camp trailers shall
28 be in accordance with this section and shall accompa-
29 ny the application for registration.

30 A. The fee for trailers shall be \$7.50 for a
31 gross weight not to exceed 2,000 pounds. The
32 maximum fee for all farm trailers, whether semi-

1 trailers or 4-wheeled type, equipped with pneu-
2 matic tires, shall be \$7.50 for each trailer when
3 the trailers are used and to be used by farmers
4 for the sole and exclusive purpose of transport-
5 ing their own farm products, crops, fertilizers
6 and farm tools and utensils and subject to the
7 further conditions and limitations that:

8 (1) No such load so transported may at any
9 time exceed 4 tons; and

10 (2) No such load may be transported a dis-
11 tance greater than 20 miles from the point
12 of origin to the point of destination.

13 B. A violation of any of the terms and condi-
14 tions of this subsection shall automatically dis-
15 qualify the violator from the benefits of this
16 subsection.

17 2. Gross weight in excess of 2,000
18 pounds. Trailers having a gross weight in excess of
19 2,000 pounds shall be classified and rated as trucks.
20 All boat trailers registered for a gross weight in
21 excess of 2,000 pounds, but not more than 4,000
22 pounds, shall pay a registration fee of \$7.50.

23 3. Camp trailers. Camp trailers having a gross
24 weight exceeding 2,000 pounds shall be assessed a
25 registration fee of \$15.

26 4. Mobile homes. Mobile homes shall be regis-
27 tered and pay a fee of \$7.50 for that registration.

28 5. Trailers or semitrailers drawn by motor vehi-
29 cles. Only one trailer or semitrailer shall be drawn
30 by a motor vehicle, provided that driveaway, towaway
31 operations, as defined by the State Police, may
32 include a combination of saddlemount vehicles not to
33 exceed 3 units in contact with surface of the high-
34 way, and provided that a tractor or truck tractor may
35 draw a combination of not more than 2 trailers, 2
36 semitrailers or one of each on that portion of the
37 Interstate Highway System, along with access thereto
38 in this State, where that operation is so authorized
39 by federal law or regulation.

1 6. The following maximum length limits shall
2 apply.

3 A. No motor vehicle may exceed a length of 45
4 feet overall, including all structural parts
5 thereof, permanent or temporary, and any load
6 carried thereon or therein.

7 B. A combination of vehicles may not exceed 65
8 feet, including all structural parts thereof,
9 permanent or temporary, specifically excepting
10 the Interstate Highway System and access thereto
11 as is provided for operation of twin trailer
12 units by federal law or regulation. The load on
13 the vehicle combinations utilized exclusively for
14 the transportation of tree length logs may extend
15 beyond 65 feet by 8 1/2 feet, provided that not
16 more than 25% of the length of the logs shall
17 extend beyond the body of the vehicle combina-
18 tions.

19 C. Fire department vehicles and disabled motor
20 vehicles being towed to a repair facility are ex-
21 empted from the length restrictions in this sub-
22 section.

23 7. Special mobile equipment. Special mobile
24 equipment, which is permanently mounted on a traction
25 unit or motor chassis, shall be registered and a fee
26 of \$15 shall be paid for that registration in lieu of
27 all other registration fees. Registration under this
28 subsection shall not include any vehicle which may be
29 used for the conveyance of property except hand tools
30 or parts which are used in connection with the opera-
31 tion of that equipment; except that road construction
32 or maintenance machinery coming under the definition
33 of special mobile equipment may be used for the
34 transportation of earth on that portion of the high-
35 way actually under construction. The special mobile
36 equipment may be operated unloaded over the highway
37 between construction projects and to or from the
38 place where the vehicles are customarily kept, if a
39 permit for that movement is first obtained in accor-
40 dance with section 1703.

41 8. Movement over highways. The movement over
42 the highways of any of such equipment, the weight of

1 which is in excess of 10 tons, shall be subject to
2 section 1703, and permits to move that equipment
3 shall be obtained accordingly.

4 9. Circus and carnival trailers or semitrail-
5 ers. Circus and carnival trailers or semitrailers
6 unloaded from railroad cars and hauled to and from
7 the midway on circus or carnival grounds shall be ex-
8 empt as to fees for the registration and licensing of
9 those trailers or semitrailers. This subsection shall
10 apply only to circus and carnival trailers or semi-
11 trailers moved to or from railroad stations or rail-
12 road sidings nearest the grounds where the circus or
13 carnival show is held.

14 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1701, as amended by PL 1977, c.
15 136, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

16 §1701. Height and width restrictions

17 No vehicle which, with or without load, is wider
18 than 102 inches ~~over~~ all overall shall be operated
19 upon any way or bridge, ~~specifically~~ excepting the
20 Interstate Highway System as defined in the Federal
21 Aid Highway Act of 1956; vehicles operating on said
22 Interstate System shall not exceed 96 inches in
23 width; except that vehicles hauling firewood, pulp-
24 wood, logs or bolts may be operated on said Inter-
25 state System if the width of the load does not exceed
26 102 inches and any bus having a width of 102 inches
27 or less may be operated on any lane of 12 feet or
28 more in width on said Interstate System. In those
29 cases in which firewood, pulpwood or bolts are piled
30 in tiers from the front to rear of the body of a
31 vehicle, a strip of wood or metal 3 inches thick
32 shall extend along the sides of the platform, from
33 front to rear, securely fastened to the platform of
34 the vehicle in order that the load shall pitch to the
35 center of said the vehicle, except that ~~such~~ those
36 vehicles may substitute for this 3-inch strip, 2
37 chains, wire rope, steel cable binders or web straps,
38 or any combination thereof. ~~Such~~ The chains, wire
39 ropes, steel cables or web straps shall meet the
40 specifications set forth in section 1751 and shall be
41 held firmly in place and properly spaced to secure
42 the load. Each vehicle so loaded shall carry a
43 solid-boarded tailboard or 5 stakes evenly spaced of

1 sufficient strength to maintain the weight of the
2 load, and ~~such~~ that load at no place along its length
3 shall be higher than ~~such~~ that tailboard or stakes.
4 No vehicle any structural part of which, permanent or
5 temporary, is more than 13 feet 6 inches in height,
6 measured vertically from a plane and level surface of
7 ground or pavement shall be operated upon any way or
8 bridge. The load on any vehicle may extend 6 inches
9 above the maximum permissible structural height of
10 ~~such~~ that vehicle. No vehicle ~~shall~~ may be operated
11 over any section of a way or bridge which does not
12 afford adequate structural overhead clearance. No
13 portion of any vehicle or load, except the reflecting
14 mirror required by this Title, ~~shall~~ may project
15 beyond the side of ~~such~~ that vehicle to make a total
16 width greater than ~~herein~~ specified in this section.
17 This section shall not apply to ~~snow plows~~ snowplows
18 and equipment used exclusively for the removal of
19 snow from public ways or to construction equipment
20 the uses of which are confined to the limits of high-
21 way and bridge construction projects. This section
22 shall not be construed as limiting the width of a
23 load of loose hay, pea vines or cornstalks.

24

STATEMENT OF FACT

25 This bill is to bring our laws into conformance
26 with newest enacted federal legislation. The bill
27 provides for limited operation of twin trailers;
28 maintains length limit for single unit motor vehi-
29 cles; establishes an overall length off the Inter-
30 state and access routes for combination vehicles;
31 provides for tree length log exemption in length law;
32 and establishes state limits of 102 inches in width
33 as applying to the Interstate Highway System.

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