

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 420

H.P. 362

House of Representatives, February 1, 1983

On Motion of Representative Carroll of Limerick. Referred to the
Committee on Transportation, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake.

Cosponsors: Senator Pray of Penobscot, Representative Callahan of
Mechanic Falls and Representative Theriault of Fort Kent.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to Vehicle
Sizes and Weights.

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

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶A, as repealed
and replaced by PL 1975, c. 237, §4, is amended to
read:

A. No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall
may be operated, or caused to be operated, on or
over any way or bridge when the gross weight, ac-
tual weight of vehicle and load, exceeds 80,000
100,000 pounds. No vehicles having 2 axles shall
may be so operated, or caused to be operated,
when the gross weight exceeds 34,000 pounds; no
vehicle or combination of vehicles having 3 axles
shall may be so operated, or caused to be oper-
ated, when the gross weight exceeds 54,000

1 excess of the limits established for such
2 that system in this section;

3 (2) No single axle of a tandem axle unit
4 ~~shall~~ may support more than 60% of the total
5 weight supported by such that tandem axle
6 unit. It shall not be deemed a violation of
7 this subparagraph if neither axle of a
8 tandem axle unit exceeds the weight legally
9 allowed on a single axle unit of that vehi-
10 cle;

11 (3) No single axle of a tri-axle unit ~~shall~~
12 may support more than 40% of the total
13 weight supported by such that tri-axle unit;
14 and

15 (4) The gross weight of a vehicle shall not
16 be increased by the addition of a trailing
17 axle, so called, unless such that axle sup-
18 ports at least 50% of the added weight per-
19 mitted by the addition of such the trailing
20 axle.

21 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §1655, first ¶, as amended by PL
22 1981, c. 556, is further amended to read:

23 The operation on the highways of any vehicle
24 loaded entirely with bark, sawdust, firewood, sawed
25 lumber, dimension lumber, pulpwood, wood chips, logs,
26 soils, unconsolidated rock materials including lime-
27 stone, bolts, farm produce, road salt, manufacturer's
28 concrete products, solid waste building materials and
29 incinerator ash which absorb moisture during delivery
30 originating and terminating within the State, or dump
31 trucks, tractor dump trucks or transit-mix concrete
32 trucks carrying highway construction materials; or
33 any vehicle loaded with a majority of products re-
34 quiring refrigeration, whether by ice or mechanical
35 equipment, and on such these vehicles when inspected
36 by the Maine State Police, the number of the seal
37 shall be recorded and the number of the new seal
38 shall be recorded by the Maine State Police, the
39 operation on the highways of any vehicle loaded with
40 raw ore from mine or quarry to place of processing
41 shall not be deemed to be in violation if the gross
42 weight of such the vehicle does not exceed 110% of

1 the maximum gross weight for which such the vehicle
2 is then registered, nor 110% of the maximum gross
3 weight permitted for such the vehicle by section
4 1652, and provided that the maximum axle loads for
5 these vehicles do not exceed 24,200 pounds for a sin-
6 gle axle unit, 46,000 pounds for a tandem axle unit
7 and ~~54,000~~ 61,600 pounds for a tri-axle unit, except
8 that 64,000 pounds shall be permitted on the tri-axle
9 unit of a 4-axle motor vehicle hauling forest prod-
10 ucts until November 1, 1983. When any of the toler-
11 ances in this section are exceeded, the difference
12 between the actual weights and the respective limits
13 established in section 1652 shall be used as the
14 basis for determining the percentage of overload on
15 which the penalty in section 1654 shall be assessed;
16 except, that in the case of a single, tandem or
17 tri-axle unit, there shall be no violation until the
18 axle unit tolerances are exceeded by 1,000 pounds or
19 more, unless the excess is intentional.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

21 This bill allows tractor-trailer units to operate
22 with one additional axle 4 or more feet from adjacent
23 axles. This bill permits 6 axle units and will more
24 appropriately distribute the weight of the vehicle.

25 0523122882