

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1914
6

7 S.P. 750

In Senate, January 20, 1986

8 Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
9 Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered
10 printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Dow of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Representative Soucy of Kittery, Representative Mills of
Bethel and Representative McPherson of Eliot.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Amend Certain Motor Vehicle Laws.
18

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

21 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §102, last ¶, as enacted by PL
22 1985, c. 429, §9, is amended to read:

23 No trailer or semitrailer may be towed or remain
24 upon any way, unless the trailer or semitrailer is
25 registered and equipped in accordance with this Title,
26 except that a permit may be granted at and by a
27 municipal police department, sheriff's office, State
28 Police Regional Communication Center or field office
29 or an office of the Division of Motor Vehicles to tow
30 an unregistered trailer or semitrailer with a gross
31 weight of not more than 3,000 pounds, for one trip
32 only, between the points of origin and destination.
33 The permit shall not remain valid for more than 3
34 consecutive days, including the date of issuance. The
35 application shall include the name of the applicant,
36 residence and address of the applicant, a brief de-

1 description of the trailer or semitrailer, the name of
2 its maker and the points of origin and destination.

3 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §2504, sub-§2, as repealed and
4 replaced by PL 1985, c. 429, §23, is amended to read:

5 2. Altered vehicles. No person may operate any
6 vehicle required to be registered in this State upon
7 any highway or street and no vehicle may receive a
8 certificate of inspection, as required by this chap-
9 ter, if that vehicle has a frame end height of less
10 than 10 inches or a height in excess of the maximum
11 as set by this subsection. Maximum frame end height
12 shall be based on the manufacturers' gross vehicle
13 weight rating. Measurements shall be taken from a
14 level surface to any the lowermost point on the
15 ~~lowermost~~ frame end. No vehicle may be modified to
16 cause the vehicle body or chassis to come into con-
17 tact with the ground, expose the fuel tank to damage
18 from collision or cause the wheels to come in contact
19 with the body under normal operation nor may any
20 part of the original suspension system be discon-
21 nected. Nothing in this section prevents the in-
22 stallation of heavy duty equipment to include shock
23 absorbers and overload springs or prevents a person
24 from operating a motor vehicle on a public way with
25 normal wear of the suspension system if normal wear
26 does not affect the control of the vehicle. This
27 section does not apply to motor vehicles that are be-
28 ing lawfully towed on the highways of this State.
29 Maximum frame end heights are as follows:

	FRONT	REAR
30 Automobile	22 inches	22 <u>26</u> inches
31 Vehicles 4,500 lbs. and		
32 under GVWR	24 inches	26 inches
33 Vehicles 4,501 lbs. to		
34 7,500 lbs. GVWR	27 inches	29 inches
35 Vehicles 7,501 lbs. to		
36 10,000 lbs. GVWR	28 inches	30 inches

1 Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §2521, first ¶, as amended by PL
2 1983, c. 370, §14, is further amended to read:

3 Whoever violates or fails to comply with the pro-
4 visions of this chapter, except as otherwise pro-
5 vided, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by
6 a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 or by
7 imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both.

8

STATEMENT OF FACT

9 Section 1 of this bill allows for the issuance of
10 permits to tow unregistered semitrailers as well as
11 trailers having a gross vehicle weight of not more
12 than 3,000 pounds. A semitrailer is a vehicle de-
13 signed so that some part of its weight rests upon or
14 is carried by the towing motor vehicle. Semitrailers
15 include boat trailers and camping trailers.

16 Section 2 of this bill changes minimum frame
17 height to minimum frame end height in reference to
18 altered motor vehicles. The present law refers to a
19 minimum frame height of 10 inches. Many commercially
20 produced motor vehicles have a frame height of less
21 than 10 inches even though they have not been al-
22 tered. This bill more appropriately addresses vehi-
23 cles with altered suspension systems.

24 Section 3 of this bill adds the possibility of
25 imprisonment to the misdemeanor penalty for inspec-
26 tion violations. This change is necessary to avoid
27 confusion and to make it clear that certain viola-
28 tions are misdemeanors and not merely infractions be-
29 cause the only punishment given is a fine.

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