

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2314
(Filing No. H- 672)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
112TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 927, L.D. 2314,
"Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Transporta-
tion to Issue Temporary Experimental Vehicle Permits
on a Limited Basis under Strictly Controlled Condi-
tions."

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Amend the resolve by striking out all of the ti-
tle and inserting in its place the following:

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'AN ACT to Authorize the Commissioner of Transporta-
tion to Issue Experimental Vehicle Permits on a Lim-
ited Basis under Strictly Controlled Conditions.'

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Further amend the resolve, in the emergency pre-
amble, in the first paragraph, in the first line
(page 1, line 24 in L.D.) by striking out the words
"and resolves"

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Further amend the resolve, in the emergency pre-
amble, in the last paragraph, in the last line (page
2, line 15 in L.D.) by striking out the words "be it"

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Further amend the resolve by striking out every-
thing after the emergency preamble and before the
emergency clause and inserting in its place the fol-
lowing:

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

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23 MRSA §4206, subsection 9 is enacted to read:

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9. Experimental vehicle permits. The Commis-
sioner of Transportation, with the advice of the Com-
missioner of Public Safety and the Director of Motor
Vehicles, may establish a program providing for the
issuance of temporary experimental vehicle permits on

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1 a discretionary basis, each for a period not exceed-
2 ing 2 years, upon proper application in writing from
3 a trucker representing a significant sector of the
4 trucking industry. The permits are to provide for the
5 operation and the evaluation of the operation of ex-
6 perimental vehicles which have a length, width,
7 height, weight and other conditions beyond that spec-
8 ified in Title 29, over any nonlimited way or bridge
9 maintained by the Department of Transportation. These
10 permits shall carry no fee. Registration shall be as-
11 essed for the applicable road limit exclusive of
12 general or special commodity permits, despite ex-
13 pected operation beyond these limits, in an experi-
14 mental mode. Multistate experiments are to be encour-
15 aged. Registration in another state in the context of
16 a regional multistate experiment will be honored
17 without the necessity of acquiring a Maine registra-
18 tion. These permits shall only be granted within the
19 context of a structured joint industry-government
20 evaluation program, including preparatory off-road
21 performance tests, strictly controlled operational
22 testing on the highway system and both in-process and
23 final evaluation reports covering productivity, oper-
24 ating characteristics and safety. Additional reports
25 may be required by the commissioner if deemed neces-
26 sary during the experimental phase. The Commissioner
27 of Transportation shall issue these permits on a lim-
28 ited basis and only if he judges that a significant
29 potential exists for increased productivity without
30 undue compromise in safety by the eventual legal gen-
31 eral operation of the experimental vehicle, without
32 permit, on the highway system. No commitment to that
33 eventual operation is implied by the issuance of the
34 temporary experimental vehicle permit. The Commis-
35 sioner of Transportation shall ratify, at his discre-
36 tion, all conditions of the experimental programs
37 proposed, including, but not limited to, preparatory
38 off-road vehicle tests, time limits, vehicle dimen-
39 sions, axle and gross weight limits, routing, insur-
40 ance and reporting provisions. The commissioner may
41 terminate any evaluation at any time if in his judg-
42 ment the operation of the vehicle poses an undue

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1 threat to public safety or the integrity of the high-
2 way system or if the conditions of the permit are vi-
3 olated.

4 The commissioner shall submit a report biennially to
5 the joint standing committee of the Legislature hav-
6 ing jurisdiction over transportation before the first
7 regular session of each Legislature. This report
8 shall discuss the progress of any experimental vehi-
9 cle evaluations and contain recommendations, if any,
10 for legislation leading to their eventual general use
11 on the highway system.'

12 Further amend the resolve, in the emergency
13 clause, in the second line (page 3, line 34 in L.D.)
14 by striking out the word "resolve" and inserting in
15 its place the word 'Act'

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

17 This amendment places the authority of the Com-
18 missioner of Transportation to issue temporary exper-
19 imental vehicle permits on a limited basis under
20 strictly controlled conditions within the Maine Re-
21 vised Statutes Title 23.

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