

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 871

S.P. 302 In Senate, March 23, 1987
Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to
Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and
ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DOW of Kennebec
Cosponsored by Senator EMERSON of Penobscot,
Representative BICKFORD of Jay, Representative MOHOLLAND of
Princeton

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Increase the Treshold for Fuel Tax
2 Licensing.
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §246-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL
7 1985, c. 409, is repealed and the following enacted
8 in its place:

9 §246-A. Fuel use identification decal

10 2. Vehicles requiring a fuel use identification
11 decal. The following vehicles require a fuel use
12 identification decal:

13 A. All motor vehicles or combination of vehicles
14 propelled by internal combustion engines and reg-

1 istered for a gross weight in excess of 26,000
2 pounds, regardless of the type of the fuel used;

3 B. All motor vehicles or combination of vehicles
4 propelled by internal combustion engines with 3
5 or more axles, regardless of registered weight or
6 type of fuel used; and

7 C. All other motor vehicles propelled by inter-
8 nal combustion engines designed to carry 20 or
9 more passengers, regardless of the number of ax-
10 les, registered weight or type of fuel used.

11 Interstate bus operators shall be required to obtain
12 this decal on the same prorated basis as is used to
13 determine fuel used within the State. The number of
14 buses that the state mileage factor represents of the
15 entire fleet mileage shall be required to display the
16 fuel use identification decal or be issued a certi-
17 fied statement that the appropriate fee has been
18 paid.

19 Farm vehicles and farm motor trucks subject to a lim-
20 ited inspection, as provided in section 2506, subsec-
21 tion 5, are not required to have a fuel use identifi-
22 cation decal pursuant to this section.

23 Operators of one-way rental vehicle fleets shall be
24 required to obtain the fuel decal on the same basis
25 as is used to determine the number of vehicles regis-
26 tered in this State. The number of one-way vehicles
27 that this registration factor represents of the en-
28 tire one-way rental fleet shall be required to dis-
29 play the fuel use identification decal.

30 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §3202, sub-§9, as repealed and**
31 **replaced by PL 1983, c. 862, §88, is repealed and the**
32 **following enacted in its place:**

33 9. User. "User" means any person who is the
34 registered owner of a motor vehicle registered for a
35 gross weight of more than 26,000 pounds, or which has
36 3 or more axles regardless of registered weight, or
37 which is designed to carry 20 or more passengers, who
38 uses and consumes special fuel within this State in
39 an internal combustion engine for the generation of
40 power to propel a motor vehicle.

1 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act shall take ef-
2 fect January 1, 1988.

3 **FISCAL NOTE**

4 Raising the fuel use licensing threshold will re-
5 sult in approximately \$100,000 in license decal fees
6 not being collected for the Highway Fund.

7 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

8 This bill raises the fuel licensing and reporting
9 threshold to conform to the weight and axle limits
10 imposed by the International Registration Plan. Cur-
11 rently, gasoline powered vehicles registered for
12 18,000 pounds or more and vehicles powered by all
13 other fuels registered for 7,000 pounds or more are
14 required to license for fuel use reporting. This
15 bill will raise the threshold to over 26,000 pounds
16 or 3 or more axles for all vehicles. The result will
17 be that owners of lighter, mostly intrastate vehi-
18 cles, will not have to license and report fuel usage
19 resulting in administrative savings for the owners of
20 these vehicles and for the State.

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