

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 881

H.P. 653 House of Representatives, March 23, 1987  
Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to  
Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested  
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative MOHOLLAND of Princeton.

Cosponsored by Representatives McPHERSON of Eliot, MILLS  
of Bethel and HARPER of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Amend the Experimental Vehicle Law.  
2

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

5 23 MRSA §4206, sub-§9, as enacted by PL 1985, c.  
6 741, is amended to read:

7 9. Experimental vehicle permits. The Commis-  
8 sioner of Transportation, with the advice of the Com-  
9 missioner of Public Safety and the Director of Motor  
10 Vehicles, may establish a program providing for the  
11 issuance of temporary experimental vehicle permits on  
12 a discretionary basis, each for a period not exceed-  
13 ing 2 years, upon proper application in writing from  
14 a trucker representing a significant sector of the  
15 trucking industry. The permits are to provide for the  
16 operation and the evaluation of the operation of ex-

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

41 The commissioner shall submit a report biennially to  
42 the joint standing committee of the Legislature hav-  
43 ing jurisdiction over transportation before the first  
44 regular session of each Legislature. This report  
45 shall discuss the progress of any experimental vehi-  
46 cle evaluations and contain recommendations, if any,

1 for legislation leading to their eventual general use  
2 on the highway system.

3 STATEMENT OF FACT

4 This bill permits experimental vehicles autho-  
5 rized by the Commissioner of Transportation to use,  
6 at the commissioner's discretion, any public way.

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