

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 882

H.P. 654 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 POULIOT of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives MACOMBER of South
Portland, SALSURY of Bar Harbor and Senator CAHILL of
Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Truck Size and Weight
Laws.

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

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §244, sub-§2, as repealed and
replaced by PL 1985, c. 812, Pt. A, §1, is amended to
read:

2. Combination tractor-trailer; exceptions. A
combination of truck tractor and full trailer or
truck tractor and semitrailer shall not exceed 65
feet in length, including all structural parts there-
of, permanent or temporary and any load carried on or
in the vehicle. Trailers or semitrailers shall not
exceed 48 feet in length, including all structural
parts thereof, permanent or temporary, and provided

1 that for trailers or semitrailers in excess of 45
2 feet the distance as measured between the center of
3 the rear most truck tractor axle and the center of
4 the rear most trailer axle shall not exceed 38 feet
5 in length.

6 A. The load on any vehicle combination utilized
7 exclusively for the transportation of tree length
8 logs may extend rearward beyond the body of the
9 vehicle by 8 1/2 feet, provided that not more
10 than 25% of the length of the logs may extend be-
11 yond the body of the vehicle combination.

12 B. A combination of truck tractor and full
13 trailer or truck tractor semitrailer may be oper-
14 ated on the Interstate Highway System and those
15 qualifying federal aid primary system highways
16 designated pursuant to the United States Surface
17 Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law
18 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length in
19 excess of 65 feet, provided that the trailer or
20 semitrailer shall not exceed 48 feet in length.

21 C. A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer
22 and full trailer may be operated on the Inter-
23 state Highway System and those qualifying federal
24 aid primary system highways designated by the
25 Secretary of the United States Department of
26 Transportation, pursuant to the United States
27 Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982,
28 Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall
29 length in excess of 65 feet, provided that no
30 semitrailer or trailer operating in such vehicle
31 combination may exceed 28.5 feet in length.

32 D. Notwithstanding any other provision of the
33 law, combination vehicles designed for the trans-
34 portation of automobiles shall be permitted a
35 front overhang of not more than 3 feet and a rear
36 overhang of not more than 4 feet. These
37 overhangs shall be in addition to the length lim-
38 its authorized in this section.

39 E. The overall length of trailers and semitrail-
40 ers shall not include the space occupied by re-
41 frigeration units or other nonload carrying ap-
42 purtenances which may be permitted by federal
43 regulation.

1 F. The overall length of trailers and semitrail-
2 ers shall not include the space occupied by re-
3 frigeration units or other nonload carrying ap-
4 purtenances which may be permitted by Federal
5 regulation.

6 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1654, first ¶, as repealed and
7 replaced by PL 1985, c. 812, Pt. B, §§2 and 9, is
8 amended to read:

9 Any person who violates any weight provision for
10 any axle or group of axles or gross weight, if con-
11 victed, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor on account
12 of each such violation and for each violation of
13 which convicted shall be punished by a fine. When
14 both gross and axle weights are exceeded, the fine
15 shall be imposed on whichever excess is the greater
16 penalty imposed shall be on the violation that re-
17 sults in the higher fine.

18 STATEMENT OF FACT

19 The purpose of this bill is to make technical
20 changes in the truck size and overweight fine laws.

21 Section 1 of this bill makes clear that the maxi-
22 mum length of a combination vehicle includes the load
23 and also repeals a redundant section.

24 Section 2 restores the provision that required
25 the larger fine to be paid when there are 2 over-
26 weight violations. Currently, due to the various re-
27 ductions for minor overloads, the larger percentage
28 violation does not always result in the larger fine.

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