

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1325

H.P. 978 House of Representatives, April 22, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Equalize Truck Weights on All Maine
Roads.

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

6 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§2, ¶B, as repealed
7 and replaced by PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. B, §29, is
8 amended to read:

9 B. No vehicle may be operated, or cause to be
10 operated, with a gross weight exceeding 22,400
11 pounds--on-a-single-axle-unit, 38,000-pounds-on-a-
12 tandem-axle-unit-or-48,000-pounds-on-a-tri-axle
13 unit,--specifically-excepting the axle limits for
14 the Interstate Highway System as defined in the
15 Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, where the gross
16 weight on a single axle unit shall not exceed

1 22,000 pounds when the gross weight of the vehi-
2 cle is 73,280 pounds or less nor 20,000 pounds
3 when the gross weight of the vehicle is in excess
4 of 73,280 pounds, the gross weight on a tandem
5 axle unit shall not exceed 34,000 pounds and the
6 gross weight on a tri-axle unit shall not exceed
7 the gross weight as determined by the formula set
8 out in subsection 1, paragraph A; and provided
9 that:

10 (1) Nothing contained in section 1655 may
11 permit an axle or tandem axle weight on the
12 Interstate Highway System as defined in the
13 Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 in excess of
14 the limits established for the system in
15 this section;

16 (2) No single axle of a tandem axle unit
17 may support more than 60% of the total
18 weight supported by that tandem axle unit.
19 It shall not be deemed a violation of this
20 subparagraph if neither axle of a tandem ax-
21 le unit exceeds the weight legally allowed
22 on a single axle unit of that vehicle;

23 (3) No single axle of a tri-axle unit may
24 support more than 40% of the total weight
25 supported by that tri-axle unit; and

26 (4) The gross weight of a vehicle shall not
27 be increased by the addition of a trailing
28 axle, so called, unless that axle supports
29 at least 50% of the added weight permitted
30 by the addition of that trailing axle.

31 Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1655, as amended by PL 1985, c.
32 812, Pt. A, §§4, 4-A and 5, is repealed.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill eliminates the weight tolerance allow-
3 ance for truck loads of special commodities. Vehi-
4 cles loaded with the special commodities listed in
5 the tolerance section of state law may carry 110% of
6 the maximum gross weight permitted under the section
7 of state law setting gross weight limits for commer-
8 cial loads.

9 This bill also establishes a uniform axle load
10 limit for commercial loads on state roads, using fed-
11 eral standards defined in the Federal Aid Highway Act
12 of 1956.

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