

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

S.P. 850 In Senate, February 9, 1988
Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative
Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and
ordered printed.
JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator ERWIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook, Senator
BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representative MILLS of Bethel.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Require Commercial Trucks to Stay in
the Right Lane Except for Passing.

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

29 MRSA §943-A is enacted to read:

§943-A. Heavy commercial vehicles; driving in
right-hand lane on multilane highways

The operator of any heavy commercial vehicle
driving on a multilane public highway shall be
restricted as follows.

1 1. One passing lane. On any public highway
2 having only one passing lane in the same direction, a
3 heavy commercial vehicle shall be restricted in
4 ordinary operation to the right-hand lane and may use
5 the adjacent passing lane for overtaking and passing
6 another vehicle, but shall return to the right-hand
7 lane at its earliest opportunity, road conditions
8 permitting.

9 2. More than one passing lane. On any public
10 highway having more than one passing lane in the same
11 direction, a heavy commercial vehicle shall be
12 restricted in ordinary operation to the right-hand
13 lane and in overtaking and passing another vehicle
14 shall be restricted to the next adjacent passing or
15 travel lane, but shall not use any other lanes except
16 in an emergency. The heavy commercial vehicle shall
17 return to the right-hand lane at the earliest
18 opportunity, road conditions permitting.

19 3. Heavy commercial vehicles. For the purposes
20 of this section, a "heavy commercial vehicle" means
21 any commercial vehicle weighing in excess of 12 1/2
22 tons used for the transportation of goods, merchandise
23 or other property. The term includes, but is not
24 limited to, any motor truck, motor carrier,
25 semitrailer, tractor, trailer, truck tractor, as
26 defined in section 1, or any combination of these
27 vehicles.

28 4. Violation; exceptions. Any operator of a
29 heavy commercial vehicle who is required, but fails to
30 comply with any requirements of subsection 1 or 2,
31 commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of
32 not more than \$100 may be adjudged. However, this
33 subsection does not apply to a person who is acting in
34 conformity with the directions of a police officer and
35 is engaged in authorized work upon a highway under
36 construction, repair or during maintenance operations
37 when the nature of the work requires a departure from
38 normal operational practices or in the event of an
39 emergency.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to prevent the
3 unrestricted movement of trucks and other heavy
4 commercial carriers in the passing lanes of multilane
5 highways which may block the passage of other vehicles
6 for long stretches. This bill will provide for a law
7 similar to that currently in effect in Massachusetts
8 that restricts heavy commercial vehicles to the
9 right-hand lane except to pass.

10

3919122887