

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2264

S.P. 869 In Senate, February 12, 1988
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 Representative MCPHERSON of Eliot, Senator
CAHILL of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to 6-Axle Vehicles Carrying
General Commodities.

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2
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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-§1, ¶F is enacted to
7 read:

1 F. Paragraphs A, B and E notwithstanding, a
2 combination vehicle consisting of a 3-axle tractor
3 operating in combination with a tri-axle
4 semitrailer may be operated, or caused to be
5 operated, with a maximum gross weight of 100,000
6 pounds provided that:

7 (1) The distance between the extreme axles,
8 excluding the steering axle, shall not be
9 less than 36 feet as measured to the nearest
10 foot;

11 (2) The minimum distance between the
12 steering axle and the first axle of the
13 tandem axle group shall be at least 10 feet
14 as measured to the nearest foot;

15 (3) The maximum weight on the tandem axle
16 shall not exceed 41,000 pounds and maximum
17 weight on the tri-axle shall not exceed
18 50,000 pounds;

19 (4) For all vehicles manufactured in model
20 year 1989 and after, all axles in any axle
21 group shall be fixed;

22 (5) All brakes, axles and suspensions shall
23 be certified with respect to weight capacity
24 by a final stage manufacturer. The
25 certification shall be presented before the
26 permit is issued. The certification shall be
27 affixed to or carried in the vehicle and
28 presented upon request by any law enforcement
29 officer;

30 (6) Nothing in this paragraph may be
31 construed to permit a gross or axle weight on
32 the Interstate Highway System, as defined in
33 the United States Highway Act of 1956, in
34 excess of those limits established for that
35 system in this section;

36 (7) A general commodity permit authorizing
37 the operation has been obtained. The permit

1 shall be carried in the vehicle at all times.
2 The fee for the annual permit shall be \$360.

3 Permits may be issued for the remainder of a
4 registration period on a monthly prorated
5 basis. Permits may be transferred to another
6 vehicle for an additional fee of \$2. Any
7 balance for the permit fee in paragraph E may
8 be applied toward this permit fee, provided
9 that the original permit was issued for the
10 same vehicle or was duly transferred. The
11 permit may be obtained upon furnishing proof
12 of certification and payment of the required
13 fee from any branch office of the Secretary
14 of State, Division of Motor Vehicles, or from
15 any agent of the Secretary of State who has
16 been appointed by the Secretary of State.
17 Municipal agents may charge the applicant for
18 a permit \$1 over the required permit fee and
19 may retain that dollar for performing this
20 function; and

21 (8) The vehicle is registered for 80,000 or
22 more pounds.

23 Sec. 2. 29 M RSA §1654, as amended by PL 1987,
24 c. 199, §3, is further amended by adding at the end a
25 new paragraph to read:

26 Notwithstanding this section, with respect to
27 vehicles operated under the provision of section 1652,
28 subsection 1, paragraph F, gross weight violations
29 shall be calculated from the basis of 80,000 pounds.

30 STATEMENT OF FACT

31 The purpose of this bill is to permit 6-axle
32 combination vehicles carrying general commodities to
33 operate at 100,000 pounds subject to certain
34 limitations. It is estimated that approximately 500
35 additional vehicles would be operated at this weight.

36 Permitting this vehicle at the higher weight would
37 increase individual vehicle productivity from 17% to

1 33%, while resulting in only minimal additional
2 pavement and bridge consumption for the total
3 program. Provisions are included for an interim fee,
4 to be adjusted by the results of cost allocation.
5 Safety is maintained by requiring vehicle components
6 to be certified.

7 It is expected that the permit fee will generate
8 an additional \$150,000 a year to the Highway Fund.

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