

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2491

S.P. 944

In Senate, March 9, 1988

Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

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 MOHOLLAND of Princeton, Representative POULIOT of Lewiston, Representative STROUT of Corinth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Clarify and Correct the Motor  
Vehicle Laws.

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

6 Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1, sub-§12, as amended by PL  
7 1983, c. 455, §4, is further amended to read:

8 12. Semitrailer. "Semitrailer" means any vehicle

1 without motive power designed for carrying persons or  
2 property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so  
3 designed that some part of its weight and of its load  
4 rests upon or is carried by that motor vehicle, and  
5 shall include pole dollies, pole dickeys, so called,  
6 and wheels commonly used as a support for the ends of  
7 logs or other long articles, but excluding tow dollies  
8 and camp trailers.

9       Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §102, 3rd ¶, as enacted by PL  
10 1985, c. 429, §9, is repealed.

11       Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §114, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL  
12 1987, c. 149, is further amended to read:

13       The Secretary of State is authorized to design and  
14 issue registration plates for antique autos, horseless  
15 carriages and street rods. These plates shall bear  
16 the inscriptions "Antique Auto," "Horseless Carriage"  
17 or "Street Rod" and "Maine." Present owners of  
18 antique motor vehicles shall be permitted to keep  
19 their existing registration plate numbers for the new  
20 registration plates issued under this section. The  
21 Secretary of State shall allow the owner of an antique  
22 motor vehicle to use registration plates which were  
23 issued in the same year as the antique motor vehicle  
24 was manufactured, provided that the date of  
25 manufacture was 1942 or earlier and the motor vehicle  
26 is registered as an antique motor vehicle under this  
27 section. Any antique motor vehicle bearing  
28 registration plates with the year of manufacture must  
29 also carry, within it, a valid antique motor vehicle  
30 registration certificate and the antique motor vehicle  
31 registration plates matching the certificate. The  
32 registration plates from 1942 or earlier must have  
33 matching plate numbers, must be affixed to both the  
34 front and rear of the antique motor vehicle and must  
35 conspicuously bear the year of manufacture. The fee  
36 for registration of an antique auto or horseless  
37 carriage shall be ~~§10~~ §12. The fee for  
38 registration of a street rod shall be \$25 \$27.

39       Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §242, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by  
40 PL 1983, c. 94, Pt. C, §1, is repealed and the  
41 following enacted in its place:

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A. Motor vehicles used for the conveyance of passengers shall pay a fee of \$22. Motor vehicles which are used interchangeably for the conveyance of passengers or property shall pay a \$22 fee. Such vehicles shall be designated as "Combinations" and may be issued a special plate with the word "Combination" in lieu of "Vacationland." Commercial plates shall not be issued to or displayed on automobiles. Motor vehicles used for the conveyance of passengers which are operated exclusively on islands having no roads maintained or supported by the State shall be registered for a fee of \$2.

For the purpose of registration only, a pickup truck may be registered as provided for automobiles provided that at no time shall the gross weight of a pickup truck so registered exceed 6,000 pounds when used as a motor truck or truck tractor. The owner of such a pickup truck desiring a gross weight of the truck in excess of 6,000 pounds shall register the truck as provided in section 246.

The registration fee for an electrically powered passenger vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or less shall be \$10 greater than the registration fee for a similar vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §242-A, first ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 127, §165, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Special equipment shall be registered in accordance with this section to be drawn or to remain on any way in this State.

	<u>Fee</u>
<u>From 1 to 2,000 pounds .....</u>	<u>\$7</u>
<u>From 2,001 to 5,000 pounds .....</u>	<u>\$12</u>

1 Over 5,000 pounds .....\$17

2 Sec. 6. 29 MRSA §244, as amended by PL 1987,  
3 c. 199, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in  
4 its place:

5 §244. Trailers

6 1. Registration fees. The annual fees for the  
7 registration of trailers and camp trailers shall be in  
8 accordance with this subsection and shall accompany  
9 the application for registration.

10 A. The registration fee for trailers shall be  
11 \$9.50 for a gross weight not to exceed 2,000  
12 pounds. The maximum fee for all farm trailers,  
13 whether semitrailers or 4-wheeled type, equipped  
14 with pneumatic tires, shall be \$9.50 for each  
15 trailer when the trailers are used and to be used  
16 by farmers for the sole purpose of transporting  
17 their own farm products, crops, fertilizers and  
18 farm tools and utensils, subject to the further  
19 conditions and limitations that:

20 (1) No such load so transported may at any  
21 time exceed 4 tons; and

22 (2) No such load may be transported a  
23 distance greater than 20 miles from the point  
24 of origin to the point of destination.

25 B. Trailers having a gross weight in excess of  
26 2,000 pounds shall be classified and rated as  
27 trucks. All boat trailers registered for a gross  
28 weight in excess of 2,000 pounds but not more than  
29 4,000 pounds shall pay a registration fee of \$9.50.

30 C. Camp trailers having a gross weight exceeding  
31 2,000 pounds shall be assessed a registration fee  
32 of \$17.

33 D. Mobile homes shall be registered and be  
34 assessed a fee of \$9.50 for that registration.

35 A violation of any of the terms and conditions of this

1 subsection shall automatically disqualify the violator  
2 from the benefits of this subsection.

3 2. Limitation on drawn trailers. Only one  
4 trailer or semitrailer shall be drawn by a motor  
5 vehicle; except that combinations of truck tractor,  
6 semitrailer and full trailer may be operated on the  
7 Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal  
8 aid primary system highways designated by the  
9 Secretary of the United States Department of  
10 Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface  
11 Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law  
12 97-424, Section 411; provided that driveway and  
13 towaway operations, as defined by the Bureau of State  
14 Police, may include a combination of saddlemount  
15 vehicles not to exceed 3 units in contact with the  
16 surface of the highway.

17 3. Converted semitrailers. A semitrailer  
18 converted to a trailer by use of a converter dolly  
19 shall remain a semitrailer for all other purposes in  
20 this Title and such a combination shall be considered  
21 as one vehicle while so connected.

22 4. Maximum length limits. The following maximum  
23 length limits shall apply.

24 A. No vehicle may exceed a length of 45 feet  
25 overall, including all structural parts of the  
26 vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load  
27 carried on or in the vehicle.

28 B. A combination of truck tractor and full  
29 trailer or truck tractor and semitrailer shall not  
30 exceed 65 feet in length, including all structural  
31 parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and  
32 any load carried on or in the vehicle. Trailers  
33 or semitrailers shall not exceed 48 feet in  
34 length, including all structural parts of the  
35 vehicle, permanent or temporary, and provided that  
36 for trailers or semitrailers in excess of 45 feet  
37 the distance as measured between the center of the  
38 rearmost truck tractor axle and the center of the  
39 rear most trailer axle shall not exceed 38 feet in  
40 length.

1           (1) The load on any vehicle combination  
2 utilized exclusively for the transportation  
3 of tree length logs may extend rearward  
4 beyond the body of the vehicle by 8 1/2 feet,  
5 provided that not more than 25% of the length  
6 of the logs extend beyond the body of the  
7 vehicle combination.

8           (2) A combination of truck tractor and full  
9 trailer or truck tractor semitrailer may be  
10 operated on the Interstate Highway System and  
11 those qualifying federal aid primary system  
12 highways designated by the Secretary of the  
13 United States Department of Transportation  
14 pursuant to the United States Surface  
15 Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public  
16 Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall  
17 length in excess of 65 feet, provided that  
18 the trailer or semitrailer does not exceed 48  
19 feet in length.

20           (3) A combination of truck tractor,  
21 semitrailer and full trailer may be operated  
22 on the Interstate Highway System and those  
23 qualifying federal aid primary system  
24 highways designated by the Secretary of the  
25 United States Department of Transportation,  
26 pursuant to the United States Surface  
27 Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public  
28 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  
31 vehicle combination may exceed 28.5 feet in  
32 length.

33           (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of  
34 the law, combination vehicles designed for  
35 the transportation of automobiles shall be  
36 permitted a front overhang of not more than 3  
37 feet and a rear overhang of not more than 4  
38 feet. These overhangs shall be in addition  
39 to the length limits authorized in this  
40 section.

1                   (5) The overall length of trailers and  
2                   semitrailers shall not include the space  
3                   occupied by refrigeration units or other  
4                   nonload carrying appurtenances which may be  
5                   permitted by federal regulation.

6                   C. Fire department vehicles and disabled motor  
7                   vehicles being towed to a repair facility are  
8                   exempted from the length restrictions set out in  
9                   this subsection.

10                   D. The Commissioner of Transportation shall  
11                   promulgate rules, not inconsistent with the  
12                   provisions of the United States Surface  
13                   Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law  
14                   97-424, to ensure reasonable access to vehicles,  
15                   as set forth in paragraph B, subparagraphs (3) and  
16                   (4), between the Interstate Highway System and any  
17                   other qualifying federal aid primary system  
18                   highways, as designated by the Secretary of the  
19                   United States Department of Transportation, and  
20                   terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs and  
21                   rest and points of loading and unloading for  
22                   household goods carriers.

23                   5. Special mobile equipment. Registration for  
24                   special mobile equipment is as follows.

25                   A. Class B special mobile equipment, which is  
26                   permanently mounted on a traction unit or motor  
27                   chassis, shall be registered and a fee of \$17  
28                   shall be paid for registration in lieu of all  
29                   other registration fees. Registration under this  
30                   subsection shall not include any vehicle which may  
31                   be used for the conveyance of property except hand  
32                   tools or parts which are used in connection with  
33                   the operation of that equipment, except that road  
34                   construction or maintenance machinery coming under  
35                   the definition of special mobile equipment may be  
36                   used for the transportation of earth on that  
37                   portion of the highway actually under  
38                   construction. Such special mobile equipment may  
39                   be operated unloaded over the highway between  
40                   construction projects and to or from the place  
41                   where these vehicles are customarily kept, if a



1 permit for such movement is first obtained in  
2 accordance with section 1703. The movement over  
3 the highways of any of such equipment, the weight  
4 of which is in excess of 10 tons, shall be subject  
5 to section 1703 and permits to move the equipment  
6 shall be obtained accordingly.

7 B. Class A special mobile equipment, which is  
8 permanently mounted on a traction unit or motor  
9 vehicle chassis, shall be operated under an annual  
10 permit. The fee for permits for any such  
11 equipment, the gross weight of which is 54,000  
12 pounds or less, shall be in accordance with the  
13 registration fee schedule established by section  
14 246 for farm motor trucks. For any such  
15 equipment, the gross weight of which is in excess  
16 of 54,000 pounds, the fee shall be in accordance  
17 with the following schedule:

18 From 54,001 pounds gross weight to 60,000 pounds  
19 gross weight.....\$382

20 From 60,001 pounds gross weight to 65,000 pounds  
21 gross weight.....\$412

22 From 65,001 pounds gross weight to 70,000 pounds  
23 gross weight.....\$442

24 From 70,001 pounds gross weight to 75,000 pounds  
25 gross weight.....\$472

26 From 75,001 pounds gross weight to 80,000 pounds  
27 gross weight.....\$502

28 The movement over the highways of any special mobile  
29 equipment, the weight of which is in excess of the  
30 gross or axle weight limits set forth in section 1652,  
31 shall be subject to section 1703, and permits to move  
32 the equipment shall be obtained accordingly.

33 6. Circus and carnival trailers. Circus and  
34 carnival trailers or semitrailers unloaded from  
35 railroad cars and hauled to and from the midway on  
36 circus or carnival grounds shall be exempt from fees  
37 for the registration and licensing of such trailers or

1 semitrailers. This subsection shall apply only to  
2 circus and carnival trailers or semitrailers moved to  
3 or from railroad stations or railroad sidings nearest  
4 the grounds where the circus or carnival show is held.

5 **Sec. 7. 29 MRSA §245, first ¶, as amended by PL**  
6 **1981, c. 492, Pt. E, §8, is further amended to read:**

7 The annual fees for the registration of  
8 semitrailers shall be in accordance with this section  
9 and shall accompany the application for registration.

10 Semitrailer..... \$15 \$17 each.

11 **Sec. 8. 29 MRSA §246, first ¶, as repealed and**  
12 **replaced by PL 1985, c. 812, Pt. A, §2, is repealed**  
13 **and the following enacted in its place:**

14 With each application for registration of motor  
15 trucks, tractors and truck tractors shall be paid an  
16 annual registration fee graduated as follows when  
17 equipped with pneumatic tires:

18 From 0 pounds gross weight to 6,000 pounds gross  
19 weight.....\$22

20 From 6,001 pounds gross weight to 9,000 pounds  
21 gross weight.....\$28

22 From 9,001 pounds gross weight to 12,000 pounds  
23 gross weight.....\$45

24 From 12,001 pounds gross weight to 14,000 pounds  
25 gross weight.....\$78

26 From 14,001 pounds gross weight to 16,000 pounds  
27 gross weight.....\$102

28 From 16,001 pounds gross weight to 18,000 pounds  
29 gross weight.....\$127

30 From 18,001 pounds gross weight to 20,000 pounds  
31 gross weight.....\$158

32 From 20,001 pounds gross weight to 23,000 pounds

1	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$185</u>
2	<u>From 23,001 pounds gross weight to 26,000 pounds</u>	
3	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$217</u>
4	<u>From 26,001 pounds gross weight to 28,000 pounds</u>	
5	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$262</u>
6	<u>From 28,001 pounds gross weight to 32,000 pounds</u>	
7	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$303</u>
8	<u>From 32,001 pounds gross weight to 34,000 pounds</u>	
9	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$337</u>
10	<u>From 34,001 pounds gross weight to 38,000 pounds</u>	
11	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$374</u>
12	<u>From 38,001 pounds gross weight to 40,000 pounds</u>	
13	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$398</u>
14	<u>From 40,001 pounds gross weight to 42,000 pounds</u>	
15	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$421</u>
16	<u>From 42,001 pounds gross weight to 45,000 pounds</u>	
17	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$445</u>
18	<u>From 45,001 pounds gross weight to 48,000 pounds</u>	
19	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$492</u>
20	<u>From 48,001 pounds gross weight to 51,000 pounds</u>	
21	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$528</u>
22	<u>From 51,001 pounds gross weight to 54,000 pounds</u>	
23	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$563</u>
24	<u>From 54,001 pounds gross weight to 55,000 pounds</u>	
25	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$575</u>
26	<u>From 55,001 pounds gross weight to 60,000 pounds</u>	
27	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$635</u>
28	<u>From 60,001 pounds gross weight to 65,000 pounds</u>	
29	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$694</u>
30	<u>From 65,001 pounds gross weight to 69,000 pounds</u>	

1	<u>gross weight.....\$757</u>
2	<u>From 69,001 pounds gross weight to 72,000 pounds</u>
3	<u>gross weight.....\$792</u>
4	<u>From 72,001 pounds gross weight to 75,000 pounds</u>
5	<u>gross weight.....\$816</u>
6	<u>From 75,001 pounds gross weight to 78,000 pounds</u>
7	<u>gross weight.....\$852</u>
8	<u>From 78,001 pounds gross weight to 80,000 pounds</u>
9	<u>gross weight.....\$872</u>

10        Sec. 9. 29 MRSA §246, 6th ¶, as amended by PL  
11        1987, c. 499, §1, is repealed and the following  
12        enacted in its place:

13        The annual fee for registration of farm motor  
14        trucks, equipped with axles other than so-called dolly  
15        axles falling under section 1652, subsection 4,  
16        paragraph A, subparagraph (6), or farm motor trucks  
17        towing a trailer or semitrailer when those trucks are  
18        used primarily for transportation of agricultural  
19        commodities, supplies or equipment to be used in  
20        connection with the operation of a farm or farms  
21        owned, operated or occupied by the registrant, shall  
22        be as follows:

23	<u>From 0 pounds gross weight to 6,000 pounds gross</u>
24	<u>weight.....\$18</u>
25	<u>From 6,001 pounds gross weight to 9,000 pounds</u>
26	<u>gross weight.....\$21</u>
27	<u>From 9,001 pounds gross weight to 11,000 pounds</u>
28	<u>gross weight.....\$24</u>
29	<u>From 11,001 pounds gross weight, to 14,000 pounds</u>
30	<u>gross weight.....\$36</u>
31	<u>From 14,001 pounds gross weight to 16,000 pounds</u>
32	<u>gross weight.....\$47</u>
33	<u>From 16,001 pounds gross weight to 18,000 pounds</u>

1	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$69</u>
2	<u>From 18,001 pounds gross weight to 20,000 pounds</u>	
3	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$81</u>
4	<u>From 20,001 pounds gross weight to 23,000 pounds</u>	
5	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$98</u>
6	<u>From 23,001 pounds gross weight to 26,000 pounds</u>	
7	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$116</u>
8	<u>From 26,001 pounds gross weight to 29,000 pounds</u>	
9	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$141</u>
10	<u>From 29,001 pounds gross weight to 32,000 pounds</u>	
11	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$161</u>
12	<u>From 32,001 pounds gross weight to 35,000 pounds</u>	
13	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$237</u>
14	<u>From 35,001 pounds gross weight to 38,000 pounds</u>	
15	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$260</u>
16	<u>From 38,001 pounds gross weight to 42,000 pounds</u>	
17	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$283</u>
18	<u>From 42,001 pounds gross weight to 46,000 pounds</u>	
19	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$306</u>
20	<u>From 46,001 pounds gross weight to 50,000 pounds</u>	
21	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$329</u>
22	<u>From 50,001 pounds gross weight to 54,000 pounds</u>	
23	<u>gross weight.....</u>	<u>\$352</u>

24     Sec. 10. 29 MRSA §247, as amended by PL 1985,  
25     c. 506, Pt. A, §55, is further amended to read:

26     §247. -- antique motor vehicles

27     The annual fees for the registration of antique  
28     motor vehicles shall be in accordance with this  
29     section and shall accompany the application for  
30     registration.

1           Antique motor vehicles ..... \$10 \$12 each.

2           **Sec. 11.**   29 MRSA §249, as amended by PL 1985,  
3           c. 694, §1, is further amended to read:

4           §249. Motorcycles

5           The annual fees for the registration of  
6           motorcycles shall be in accordance with this section  
7           and shall accompany the application for registration.

8           Motorcycles ..... \$17 \$19 each.

9           Mopeds ..... \$5 \$7 each.

10          **Sec. 12.**   29 MRSA §381, as amended by PL 1987,  
11          c. 64, §2, is further amended by adding at the end two  
12          new paragraphs to read:

13          No person may attach or permit to be attached to a  
14          vehicle a registration plate assigned to another  
15          vehicle, or obscure or permit to be obscured the  
16          figures or an illustration on any registration plate  
17          attached to any vehicle, or fail to properly display  
18          on a vehicle the registration plates and registration  
19          number duly issued therefor.

20          Whoever violates this section shall be guilty of a  
21          Class E crime.

22          **Sec. 13.**   29 MRSA §2183, as repealed and  
23          replaced by PL 1983, c. 818, §19, is repealed.

24          **Sec. 14.**   29 MRSA §2507-A, sub-§1, ¶B is enacted  
25          to read:

26          B. Fleets of 5 or more vehicles with a common  
27          registration expiration during the month of  
28          February may continue to have an uncommon  
29          inspection and registration expiration.

30          **Sec. 15.**   29 MRSA §2508-A is enacted to read:

31          §2508-A. Enforcement of an uncommon expiration of

1                   sticker and registration

2           Whenever the inspection and registration  
3 certificates are valid but do not have a common  
4 expiration, no summons may be issued. The law  
5 enforcement officer shall issue a warning and advise  
6 the owner or operator to have the vehicle reinspected  
7 to cause a common expiration of the inspection sticker  
8 and the vehicle registration certificate.

9                   STATEMENT OF FACT

10          Section 1 will exclude camp trailers from the  
11 semitrailer definition due to the fact that camp  
12 trailer is specifically defined in another section of  
13 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29.

14          Section 2. By repealing this paragraph, the law  
15 will require that the mileage of all vehicles be  
16 recorded on the back of the registration each time it  
17 is registered. Current law requires only the mileage  
18 on title vehicles. This will be an added protection  
19 for the consumer of used motor vehicles. It also will  
20 bring Maine law into compliance with federal  
21 requirements.

22          Sections 3 to 11 make several fee changes which  
23 will provide approximately \$1,700,000 annually for the  
24 purpose of constructing a building to provide adequate  
25 office space to house the Motor Vehicle Division, the  
26 Augusta branch office, and for "single point contact"  
27 concept.

28          Section 12 moves the requirements repealed in  
29 section 7 to an area in the Title governing the  
30 display of registration plates.

31          Section 13 repeals a law regarding the display of  
32 registration plates to move the requirements to an  
33 area of the Title more germane to the subject matter.

34          Section 14 will exempt vehicle fleets of 5 or more  
35 from the requirement to have a common expiration of

1 the registration certificate and inspection sticker.  
2 In many instances, it would be impossible for a fleet  
3 to perform an inspection of all their vehicles during  
4 the month of February and most fleets are highly  
5 maintained and are currently being inspected more than  
6 once a year.

7 Section 15 prohibits the issuance of a court  
8 summons when the inspection sticker and registration  
9 do not have a common expiration if both are actually  
10 valid.

11

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