

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 75, L.D. 65, Bill, "An Act to Make Minor Changes in the Motor Vehicle Laws"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

'An Act to Make Changes in the Motor Vehicle Laws'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

**'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and**

**Whereas, certain amendments to the motor vehicle laws will become effective April 1, 1989, unless the effective date is changed; and**

**Whereas, the implementation process will require additional time for education of the affected parties and to acquire appropriate forms; and**

**Whereas, the overall success of implementation of those amendments will be greatly enhanced if the effective date is changed; and**

**Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,**

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

**Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1, sub-§12, as amended by PL 1987, c. 789, §2, is further amended to read:**

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

9           **Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §530, sub-§1, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1987, c.  
10 415, §18, is further amended to read:

11           B. Any person who operates a motor vehicle on any way  
12 without being duly licensed or without holding a valid  
13 instruction permit or in violation of any condition or  
14 restriction placed on the use of an instruction permit or  
15 operator's license under the authority of this subchapter  
16 shall be guilty of a Class E crime, except that a person who  
17 operates a motor vehicle on a way and who possesses a  
18 license that has expired within the previous 180 30 days  
19 commits the traffic infraction of operating a motor vehicle  
20 with an expired license. Any person who operates a motor  
21 vehicle on a way and who possesses a license that has been  
22 expired more than 180 30 days is guilty of the Class E crime  
23 of operating without a license.

24           **Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §1252, sub-§2, ¶E,** as amended by PL 1983, c.  
25 667, §1, is repealed.

26           **Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §2012, sub-§1, ¶A,** as amended by PL 1975, c.  
27 435, §1, is further amended to read:

28           A. Shall be identified with the words, "School Bus,"  
29 printed in letters not less than 8 inches high, located  
30 between the warning signal lamps as high as possible without  
31 impairing visibility of the lettering from both front and  
32 rear and have no other lettering on the front thereof or on  
33 the rear with the exception of lettering not more than 4  
34 inches high indicating an emergency exit and a number  
35 assigned to that specific bus when desired. Four-inch  
36 lettering on buses with 20 or less carrying capacity shall  
37 be optional until September 1, 1977, ~~Transit--district~~  
38 ~~buses,--subject--to--this--section,--used--primarily--for~~  
39 ~~transporting--persons--other--than--pupils,--may--carry~~  
40 ~~advertising--not--to--exceed--a--width--of--40--inches--on--their~~  
41 ~~front--and--of--75--inches--on--their--rear.;~~

42           **Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §2020, first ¶,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 737,  
43 Pt. C, §§72 and 106 and as amended by PL 1989, cc. 6 and 9, is  
44 repealed.

45           **Sec. 6. 29 MRSA §2507-A, sub-§1, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 1987, c.  
46 789, §22, is amended to read:

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1 B. Fleets of 5 or more vehicles with a common registration  
2 expiration month may continue to have an uncommon inspection  
3 and registration expiration. The effective date of this  
paragraph shall be ~~April~~ July 1, 1989.

5 **Sec. 7. 29 MRSA §2508-A**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 789, §23,  
7 is amended to read:

9 **§2508-A. Enforcement of an uncommon expiration of inspection and  
10 registration certificates**

11 The owner or operator of a vehicle operated with a valid  
12 certificate of inspection and a valid registration certificate  
13 which have uncommon expiration dates in violation of section  
14 2502, subsection 3, shall not be issued a summons to court but  
15 shall be issued a warning in a form to be designated by the Chief  
16 of the Maine State Police. This warning shall state that the  
17 owner or operator shall within 2 business days therefrom cause  
18 the vehicle to be inspected in accordance with this chapter.  
19 Failure to comply with the provisions of a warning issued  
20 pursuant to this section is a violation punishable in accordance  
21 with section 2521. The effective date of this section shall be  
22 ~~April~~ July 1, 1989.

25 **Sec. 8. PL 1987, c. 789, §24** is amended to read:

27 **Sec. 10. Effective date.** The effective date of this Act is ~~April~~  
July 1, 1989.

29 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
30 preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.'

33

35 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

37 This amendment replaces the original bill and adds an  
emergency preamble and emergency clause.

39

41 Section 1 removes the exemption of camp trailers from the  
definition of semitrailer.

43 Section 2 is a modification of the original bill and makes  
44 it a Class E crime to operate with a license that has been  
45 expired more than 30 days. Under present law, it is a Class E  
46 crime if it has been expired more than 180 days. Operation with a  
47 license which has been expired for a shorter period is a traffic  
infraction.

49

51 Section 3 is added to the original bill and repeals the 45  
mile per hour speed limit for mobile homes.

53 Section 4 deletes a reference to advertising on transit  
54 district buses used as school buses since transit district buses  
55 are not used for the primary transportation of school children.

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1 The amendment also deletes section 4 of the original bill which  
2 would have prohibited use of school buses on public ways for  
3 passengers who do not include school-age persons.

5 Section 5 deletes a paragraph referring to school buses  
6 operated by a motor carrier holding a certificate from the Public  
7 Utilities Commission. The Public Utilities Commission no longer  
8 deals with motor carriers.

9  
10 Sections 6, 7 and 8 provide a 3-month delay in the effective  
11 date of the program for renewal of a motor vehicle registration  
12 and the inspection sticker at the same time.

13  
14 The amendment also deletes from the original bill a  
15 provision which would prohibit operation of vehicles on a public  
16 way with body lifts which increase the vertical distance from the  
17 floor to the frame above the manufacturer's specifications.

Reported by Senator Twitchell for the Committee on  
Transportation. Reproduced and Distributed Pursuant  
to Senate Rule 12.  
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