

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)



114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 65

S.P. 75

In Senate, February 2, 1989

Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

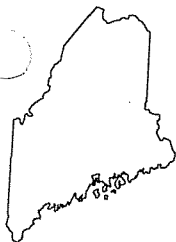
Presented by Senator GOULD of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook, Representative MACOMBER
of South Portland and Representative STROUT of Corinth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Make Minor Changes in the Motor Vehicle Laws.



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

3 **Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1, sub-§12,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 789,
5 §2, is further amended to read:

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

21 **Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §530, sub-§1, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1987, c.
23 415, §18, is further amended to read:

25 B. Any person who operates a motor vehicle on any way
27 without being duly licensed or without holding a valid
29 instruction permit or in violation of any condition or
31 restriction placed on the use of an instruction permit or
33 operator's license under the authority of this subchapter
35 shall be guilty of a Class E crime, ~~except that a person who~~
37 ~~operates a motor vehicle on a way and who possesses a~~
39 ~~license that has expired within the previous 180 days~~
41 ~~commits the traffic infraction of operating a motor vehicle~~
43 ~~with an expired license. Any person who operates a motor~~
45 ~~vehicle on a way and who possesses a license that has been~~
47 ~~expired more than 180 days is guilty of the Class E crime of~~
49 ~~operating without a license.~~

51 **Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §2012, sub-§1, ¶A,** as amended by PL 1975, c.
53 435, §1, is further amended to read:

55 A. Shall be identified with the words, "School Bus,"
57 printed in letters not less than 8 inches high, located
59 between the warning signal lamps as high as possible without
61 impairing visibility of the lettering from both front and
63 rear and have no other lettering on the front thereof or on
65 the rear with the exception of lettering not more than 4
67 inches high indicating an emergency exit and a number
69 assigned to that specific bus when desired. Four-inch
71 lettering on buses with 20 or less carrying capacity shall
73 be optional until September 1, 1977, ~~Transit district~~
75 ~~buses, subject to this section, used primarily for~~
77 ~~transporting persons other than pupils, may carry~~
79 ~~advertising not to exceed a width of 40 inches on their~~
81 ~~front and of 75 inches on their rear. ;~~

83 **Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §2012, sub-§3,** as amended PL 1987, c. 601, §1,
85 is further amended to read:

87 3. **Other passengers.** School buses being operated on a
89 public way and transporting passengers who do not include
91 school-age persons, as defined in section 2019, shall have the

1 words "school bus" covered, removed or otherwise concealed and
the school bus signal lamps shall not be operable.

3
5 A school bus shall not be used for the routine receiving and
7 discharging of passengers who do not include school-age persons,
as defined in section 2019, on public ways unless the school bus
is permanently converted in the manner designated in subsection 2.

9 **Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §2020, 1st ¶,** as amended by PL 1979, c. 2 and
11 PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §§72 and 106, is repealed.

13 **Sec. 6. 29 MRSA §2504,** as amended by PL 1985, c. 685, §8, is
further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

15 No person may operate any vehicle required to be registered
17 in this State upon any public way, and no vehicle may receive a
19 certificate of inspection, as required by this chapter, if
21 replacement or additional body mounts or spacers have been
attached to the vehicle so that the distance between the lowest
portion of the body floor and the top of the frame exceeds the
manufacturer's specification for that vehicle.

23 STATEMENT OF FACT

25 This bill is designed to make minor changes in the motor
27 vehicle laws.

29 Section 1 of the bill refers to the definition of
31 semitrailer. Camp trailers are presently excluded from that
33 definition even though the definition of camp trailer states that
it is a trailer or semitrailer. The bill deletes camp trailers
from the exclusion in the definition of semitrailer.

35 Section 2 of the bill deletes the exception for those
37 persons who operate a motor vehicle on a public way with a
license expired within the previous 180 days as having committed
39 a traffic infraction rather than a Class E crime, which is the
41 penalty if the license is expired more than 180 days. The
43 distinction is deleted because in either case the license is
expired. Where the Secretary of State is required to notify
individuals that their licenses will expire, a lesser penalty is
inappropriate.

45 Section 3 deletes a reference to transit buses being used as
47 school buses because it is no longer applicable.

49 Section 4 states that a school bus may not be used on a
51 route with regular stops on a public way for other than
school-age children unless it has been repainted and the signal
53 markers have been removed. Such use of school buses creates
confusion for the public.

55 Section 5 deletes a paragraph which is no longer necessary
under the school bus laws.

1

Section 6 makes body lifts on motor vehicles registered and inspected in Maine illegal.

3