

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 636

H.P. 471

House of Representatives, March 7, 1989

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative McPHERSON of Eliot.

Cosponsored by Representative MOHOLLAND of Princeton, Senator
THERIAULT of Aroostook and Representative MILLS of Bethel.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Amend the Truck Laws.



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

3 **29 MRSA §244, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 781, §§2 and
5 15, and as repealed and replaced by PL 1987, c. 789, §8, is
 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

7 **4. Maximum length limits.** The following maximum length
9 limits shall apply.

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

15 B. A combination of truck tractor and full trailer or truck
17 tractor and semitrailer shall not exceed 65 feet in length,
19 including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or
21 temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle.
23 Trailers or semitrailers shall not exceed 48 feet in length,
 including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or
 temporary, and provided that for trailers or semitrailers in
 excess of 45 feet the distance as measured between the
 center of the rearmost truck tractor axle and the center of
 the rearmost trailer axle shall not exceed 38 feet in length.

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

31 (2) A combination of truck tractor and full trailer or
33 truck tractor semitrailer may be operated on the
35 Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal
37 aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary
39 of the United States Department of Transportation
41 pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation
 Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411,
 with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, provided
 that the trailer or semitrailer does not exceed 48 feet
 in length.

43 (3) A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer and
45 full trailer, or a combination of truck tractor and 2
47 semitrailers, may be operated on the Interstate Highway
49 System and those qualifying federal aid primary system
51 highways designated by the Secretary of the United
 States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the
 United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of
 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall
 length in excess of 65 feet, provided that no

1 semitrailer or trailer operating in either vehicle
3 combination may exceed 28.5 feet in length.

5 (4) A stinger-steered autotransporter may be operated
7 on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying
9 federal aid primary system highways designated by the
11 Secretary of the United States Department of
13 Transportation pursuant to the United States Surface
15 Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law
17 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length not to
19 exceed 75 feet.

21 Notwithstanding any other provision of the law,
23 combination vehicles designed for the transportation of
25 automobiles shall be permitted a front overhang of not
27 more than 3 feet and a rear overhang of not more than 4
29 feet. These overhangs shall be in addition to the
31 length limits authorized in this section.

33 (5) The overall length of trailers and semitrailers
35 shall not include the space occupied by refrigeration
37 units or other nonload-carrying appurtenances which may
39 be permitted by federal regulation.

41 C. Fire department vehicles and disabled motor vehicles
43 being towed to a repair facility are exempted from the
45 length restrictions set out in this subsection.

47 D. The Commissioner of Transportation shall promulgate
49 rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of the United
51 States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public
Law 97-424, to ensure reasonable access to vehicles, as set
forth in paragraph B, subparagraphs (2), (3) and (4),
between the Interstate Highway System and any other
qualifying federal aid primary system highways, as
designated by the Secretary of the United States Department
of Transportation, and terminals, facilities for food, fuel,
repairs and rest and points of loading and unloading for
household goods carriers.

Any permits required pursuant to this paragraph shall be
issued by the Secretary of State with the advice and consent
of the Commissioner of Transportation.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill conforms Maine law to federal requirements by
permitting combinations consisting of a truck tractor and 2
semitrailers to operate on the Interstate Highway System. The

1 bill also corrects a technical error created by the enactment of
2 public laws amending the same section.