

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 152, L.D. 364, Bill, "An Act to Prohibit Retrofitted Lift Axles on 100,000-pound General Commodity Permit Vehicles"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Relating to Lifiable or Variable Load Suspension Axles for 100,000-pound General Commodity Vehicles'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 1989, c. 528, §§4 and 16, is further amended to read:

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

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

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

(3) The maximum weight on the tandem axle shall ~~shall~~ does not exceed 41,000 pounds and maximum weight on the tri-axle shall not exceed 50,000 pounds;

(4) For all vehicles manufactured in model-year-1989 and after, ~~all lifiable axles shall be prohibited, modified or retrofitted with lifiable or variable load suspension axles after October 30, 1991, lifiable or variable load suspension axles are permitted only under the following conditions:~~

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2 (a) Only one liftable or variable load axle may
4 be present on the tractor and only one liftable or
 variable load axle may be present on the
 semitrailer;

6 (b) Liftable or variable load axles must be
8 located on the vehicle so that they are legally
10 part of the tandem axle group or tri-axle group as
 appropriate; and

12 (c) All controls pertaining to the lifting or
14 lowering of liftable or variable load axles must
 conform to the expected loading of the suspension
 and must be 20,000 pounds or more;

16 (5) All brakes, axles and suspensions shall ~~be~~ are
18 certified with respect to weight capacity by a final
20 stage manufacturer. The certification shall must be
22 presented before the permit is issued. The
24 certification shall must be affixed to or carried in
 the vehicle and presented upon request by any law
 enforcement officer;

26 (6) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to
28 permit a gross or axle weight on the Interstate Highway
 System, as defined in the United States Highway Act of
 1956, in excess of 80,000 pounds;

30 (7) A general commodity permit authorizing the
32 operation has been obtained. The permit shall must be
34 carried in the vehicle at all times. The fee for an
36 annual permit is \$252 plus any surcharge required under
38 subparagraph (9). The fee for a 3-month permit is \$75
 plus any surcharge required under subparagraph (9). A
 permit may be issued for a registration period of 4
 months or more for a fee of \$21 per month plus any
 surcharge required under subparagraph (9).

40 Permits may be transferred to another vehicle for an
42 additional fee of \$2. The permit may be obtained upon
44 furnishing proof of certification and payment of the
46 required fee from any branch office of the Secretary of
48 State, Division of Motor Vehicles, or from any agent of
 the Secretary of State who has been appointed by the
 Secretary of State. Municipal agents may charge the
 applicant for a permit \$1 over the required permit fee
 and may retain that \$1 for performing this function.

50 All revenue generated by the permit fee authorized
52 under this subparagraph shall must be expended ~~towards~~
 for the enforcement of truck weight regulations;

2 (8) The vehicle is registered for at least 90,000
4 pounds or the maximum allowable registered weight in
its home jurisdiction;

6 (9) ~~Aay~~ The owner of any vehicle registered in a
8 jurisdiction where the maximum allowable registered
weight is less than 90,000 pounds ~~shall-pay~~ pays an
10 annual surcharge on the general commodity permit of
\$105. The surcharge may be paid for a period of 3
12 months or more on a monthly prorated basis; and

14 (10) A vehicle with a general commodity permit under
this paragraph ~~may---carry~~ carries those special
16 commodities specified in section 1655 under the
conditions of that section, except that no additional
18 permit is required.'

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 This amendment requires that all 100,000 pound general
24 commodity permit vehicles that are manufactured, modified or
retrofitted with liftable or variable suspension axles after
26 October 30, 1991 meet certain conditions with respect to those
axles.

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

(5-29-91)

(S-232)