

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 364

S.P. 152

In Senate, February 5, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TWITCHELL of Oxford

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**An Act to Prohibit Retrofitted Lift Axles on 100,000-pound General
Commodity Permit Vehicles.**



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

2
4 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 1989, c. 528, §§4
and 16, is further amended to read:

6 F. Paragraphs A, B and E notwithstanding, a combination
8 vehicle consisting of a 3-axle tractor operating in
10 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:

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

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

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

24 (4) For all vehicles manufactured in model year 1989
26 and after, and vehicles modified or retrofitted after
October 1, 1991, all liftable axles shall ~~be~~ are
prohibited;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill prohibits a combination vehicle consisting of a
3-axle tractor operating in combination with a tri-axle
semitrailer that has been retrofitted or modified for lift axles
after October 1, 1991 from receiving a 100,000-pound general
commodity permit.