

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1356

H.P. 936

House of Representatives, March 28, 1991

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 that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative BAILEY of Farmington.

Cosponsored by Representative TAMMARO of Baileyville, Senator GOULD of Waldo and Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Clarify Certain Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight
Provisions.**



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

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Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1, sub-§14-B is enacted to read:

14-B. Saddle-mount vehicle transporter combination.
"Saddle-mount vehicle transporter combination" means a combination
vehicle consisting of a truck or tractor towing one or more
trucks or tractors each of which is connected by a saddle to the
frame or 5th wheel of the vehicle in front of it. The saddle is
a mechanism that connects the front axle of the towed vehicle to
the frame or fifth wheel kingpin connection. This vehicle
combination may include a fullmount which consists of a smaller
vehicle mounted completely on the frame of either the first or
the last vehicle in a saddle-mount vehicle transporter combination.

Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §244, sub-§4, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by
PL 1989, c. 481, Pt. A, §8, is amended to read:

B. A combination of truck tractor and full trailer or truck
tractor and semitrailer shall may not exceed 65 feet in
length, including all structural parts of the vehicle,
permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the
vehicle. Trailers or semitrailers shall may not exceed 48
feet in length, including all structural parts of the
vehicle, permanent or temporary, ~~and provided that for~~
For trailers or semitrailers in excess of 45 feet, except
those operating on the Interstate Highway System and those
qualifying federal aid primary system 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, the distance as measured between the center of
the rearmost truck tractor axle and the center of the
rearmost trailer axle shall may not exceed 38 feet.

(1) The load on any vehicle combination utilized
exclusively for the transportation of tree-length logs
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 extends beyond the body of the vehicle
combination.

(2) A combination of truck tractor and full trailer or
semitrailer may be operated on the Interstate Highway
System and those qualifying federal aid primary system
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 the trailer
or semitrailer does not exceed 48 feet in length.

2 (3) A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer and
4 full trailer, or a combination of truck tractor and 2
6 semitrailers, may be operated on the Interstate Highway
8 System and those qualifying federal aid primary system
10 highways designated by the Secretary of the United
12 States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the
14 United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of
16 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall
18 length in excess of 65 feet, provided that no
20 semitrailer or trailer operating in either vehicle
22 combination may exceed 28.5 feet in length.

24 (4) A stinger-steered autotransporter may be operated
26 on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying
28 federal aid primary system highways designated by the
30 Secretary of the United States Department of
32 Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface
34 Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law
36 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length not to
38 exceed 75 feet.

40 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, combination
42 vehicles designed for the transportation of automobiles
44 shall ~~be~~ are permitted a front overhang of not more
46 than 3 feet and a rear overhang of not more than 4
48 feet. These overhangs shall ~~be~~ are in addition to the
50 length limits authorized in this section.

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

(6) Saddlemount vehicle transporter combinations with
up to 3 saddlemounted vehicles and one fullmount, with
an overall length not exceeding 75 feet, may be
operated on the Interstate Highway System and those
qualifying federal aid primary system 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 97-244, Section 411.

54 **Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1989, c.**
56 **528, §§2 and 16, is further amended to read:**

58 A. Ne A vehicle or combination of vehicles shall may not be
60 operated, or caused to be operated, on or over any way or
62 bridge when the gross weight, actual weight of vehicle and
load, exceeds 90,000 pounds. Ne-vehicles Vehicles having 2
axles shall may not be so operated, or caused to be

operated, when the gross weight exceeds 34,000 pounds; ~~no a~~ vehicle or combination of vehicles having 3 axles shall may not be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 54,000 pounds; ~~no a~~ vehicle or combination of vehicles having 4 axles shall may not be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 69,000 pounds; except as provided in ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs E and F, ~~no a~~ vehicle or combination of vehicles having 5 or more axles shall may not be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 80,000 pounds. Vehicles Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, a vehicle may be operated, or caused to be operated on the Interstate Highway System, as defined in the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, with a maximum gross weight ~~permitted by this subsection, provided such gross weights do that does~~ not exceed the following formula, or 80,000 pounds, whichever is less:

$$W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

W=overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds
 L=overall distance in feet between the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles

N=number of axles in group under consideration

~~and in no case shall such gross weight limits on the Interstate Highway System exceed 80,000 pounds.~~

Sec. 4. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. A, §191, is further amended to read:

B. The maximum gross weight permitted by this section for combination vehicles having 4 axles shall must be reduced by 1,000 pounds for each foot the distance is less than 18 feet between the centers of the extreme axles, excluding the steering axle, measured to the nearest foot and the maximum gross weight permitted for combination vehicles having 5 or more axles shall must be reduced by 2,000 pounds for each foot such distance is less than 24 feet between the centers of the extreme axles, excluding the steering axle, measured to the nearest foot. Nothing contained in this paragraph shall ~~permit, validate or in any way apply~~ applies to the use ~~of vehicles using~~ the Interstate Highway System as defined by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 ~~by vehicles with overall gross weights in excess of the applicable maximum gross weights permitted by paragraph A.~~

2 **Sec. 5. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶E**, as amended by PL 1989, c.
528, §§3 and 16, is further amended to read:

4 E. Notwithstanding paragraphs A and B, a combination
6 vehicle consisting of a 3-axle tractor operating in
8 combination with a tri-axle semitrailer may be operated, or
caused to be operated, with a maximum gross weight of 90,000
pounds, ~~and~~ provided that:

10 (1) The maximum gross weight permitted by this
12 paragraph shall must be reduced by 2,000 pounds for
14 each foot the distance is less than 32 feet between the
extreme axles, excluding the steering axle, measured to
the nearest foot;

16 (2) Nothing contained in this paragraph shall ~~permit a~~
18 ~~gross weight on~~ applies to vehicles using the
Interstate Highway System, as defined in the Federal
Aid Highway Act of 1956, ~~in excess of 80,000 pounds;~~

20 (3) The vehicle is registered for at least 90,000
22 pounds or the maximum allowable registered weight in
24 its home jurisdiction; and

26 (4) Any vehicle registered in a jurisdiction where the
28 maximum allowable registered weight is less than 90,000
pounds must have a permit authorizing that operation in
this State. The annual fee for the permit shall ~~be~~ is
\$105. The permit may be issued for a period of 3
30 months or more on a monthly prorated basis, but shall
32 may not exceed the expiration date of the annual
registration.

34 **Sec. 6. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶F**, as amended by PL 1989, c.
528, §§4 and 16, is further amended by amending sub-¶(6) to read:

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

44 **Sec. 7. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§2, ¶B**, as repealed and replaced by
PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. B, §29, is amended to read:

46 B. No vehicle may be operated, or cause to be operated,
48 with a gross weight exceeding 22,400 pounds on a single axle
50 unit, 38,000 pounds on a tandem axle unit or 48,000 pounds
on a tri-axle unit, specifically excepting the Interstate
Highway System as defined in the Federal Aid Highway Act of
1956, where the gross weight on a single axle unit shall may

not exceed 22,000 pounds when the gross weight of the vehicle is 73,280 pounds or less nor 20,000 pounds when the gross weight of the vehicle is in excess of 73,280 pounds, the gross weight on a tandem axle unit shall may not exceed 34,000 pounds and the gross weight on a ~~tri-axle unit shall~~ axle groups containing 2 or more axles may not exceed the gross weight ~~as--determined--by--the--formula--set--out--in~~ permitted by subsection 1, paragraph A, and provided that:

(1) Nothing contained in section 1655 ~~may--permit~~ permits an axle or tandem axle group weight on the Interstate Highway System as defined in the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 in excess of the limits established for the system in this section;

(2) No single axle of a tandem axle unit may support more than 60% of the total weight supported by that tandem axle unit. It shall is not be deemed a violation of this subparagraph if neither axle of a tandem axle unit exceeds the weight legally allowed on a single axle unit of that vehicle;

(3) No single axle of a tri-axle unit may support more than 40% of the total weight supported by that tri-axle unit; and

(4) The gross weight of a vehicle shall may not be increased by the addition of a trailing axle, so called, unless that axle supports at least 50% of the added weight permitted by the addition of that trailing axle.

Sec. 8. 29 MRSA §1655, 3rd ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1989, c. 528, §§8 and 16, is amended to read:

A vehicle or combination of vehicles may be operated or caused to be operated on the Interstate Highway System, as defined in the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, with a gross weight ~~which~~ that exceeds 73,280 pounds, if such gross weight permitted by this section does not exceed ~~the--formula--in~~ that permitted by section 1652.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing commercial vehicle size and weight restrictions.

1. The bill defines saddlemount vehicle transporter combinations and establishes their maximum length when operating on the Interstate Highway System. It also clarifies that

2 additional length restrictions on trailers and semitrailers
3 exceeding 45 feet do not apply to operation on the Interstate
4 Highway System.

5
6 2. The bill clarifies the application of the federal bridge
7 formula for determining gross weights. It also makes clear that
8 the provisions that reduce gross vehicle weight limits for
9 shorter wheel bases and those allowing operation of 6-axle
10 general commodity vehicles at 90,000 and 100,000 pounds do not
11 apply on the Interstate Highway System.

12 3. The bill makes clear that, for vehicles operating on the
13 Interstate Highway System, all axle groups containing 2 or more
14 axles are subject to a gross weight limit which is the lesser of
15 80,000 pounds or the federal bridge formula limit.

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17 4. The bill makes clear that special commodity vehicle
18 gross weight limits on the Interstate Highway System are limited
19 by the 80,000 pound maximum as well as the federal bridge formula
20 limit.