

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1788

S.P. 674

In Senate, May 6, 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 "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

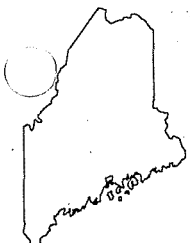
Presented by Senator MILLS of Oxford

Cosponsored by Representative CASHMAN of Old Town and Representative BAILEY of Farmington.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Authorize Operation of a 6-axle Single Unit Truck and a
Combination Vehicle with a 53-foot Semitrailer Resulting from the
Experimental Vehicle Program.**



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

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PART A

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

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A. No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall ~~may~~ be operated, or caused to be operated, on or over any way or bridge when the gross weight, actual weight of vehicle and load, exceeds 90,000 pounds. No vehicles having 2 axles shall ~~may~~ be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 34,000 pounds; no vehicle or combination of vehicles having 3 axles shall ~~may~~ be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 54,000 pounds; no vehicle or combination of vehicles having 4 axles shall ~~or, except as provided in paragraph G,~~ any single unit vehicle having 5 or more axles, may be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 69,000 pounds; ~~except as provided in paragraph E, no vehicle--or~~ combination of vehicles having 5 or more axles shall ~~may~~ be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 80,000 pounds. 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 maximum gross weight permitted by this subsection, provided such gross weights do not exceed the following formula:

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

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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

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N=number of axles in group under consideration

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

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Sec. A-2. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶G is enacted to read:

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G. A 6-axle single unit truck may be operated, or caused to be operated, if:

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- (1) The general road limit for this vehicle is 54,000 pounds gross vehicle weight when the vehicle operates as a 3-axle single unit vehicle; 69,000 pounds when the vehicle operates as a 4-axle or 5-axle single unit

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2 vehicle; and 77,200 pounds gross vehicle weight when
3 the vehicle operates as a 6-axle single unit vehicle;

4 (2) Axle distances as measured from axle center to
5 axle center, numbering the axles beginning with the
6 steering axle and moving rearward on the vehicle, are
7 as follows:

<u>Axle to axle</u>	<u>At least</u>	<u>But not more than</u>
<u>Steering to axle 2</u>	<u>13 ft. 7 in.</u>	<u>14 ft. 1 in.</u>
<u>Axle 2 to axle 3</u>	<u>4 ft. 3 in.</u>	<u>4 ft. 9 in.</u>
<u>Axle 3 to axle 4</u>	<u>4 ft.</u>	<u>5 ft. 3 in.</u>
<u>Axle 4 to axle 5</u>	<u>4 ft. 3 in.</u>	<u>4 ft. 9 in.</u>
<u>Axle 5 to axle 6</u>	<u>5 ft.</u>	<u>5 ft. 6 in.</u>
<u>Steering to axle 6</u>	<u>Not applicable</u>	<u>32 ft. 10 in.</u>

18 The distance between the front bumper and the rear
19 bumper of the vehicle may not exceed 39 feet 8 inches;

20 (3) Axles 2, 5 and 6 of the vehicle may be liftable
21 axles. Axles 2 and 6 must be self-steering axles of a
22 type that has been approved by the Department of
23 Transportation;

26 (4) All axles must be 4-tired axles except the
27 steering axle and axle 2;

28 (5) Interlock devices are required on axles 2 and 6 if
29 these axles are liftable. The interlock devices must
30 be operational when the vehicle is operating at a gross
31 vehicle weight in excess of 75,900 pounds. The
32 interlock devices must prevent the operator from
33 raising the axle or axles when the vehicle speed
34 exceeds 15 miles per hour. The interlock devices must
35 only allow operation in the low range in a 2-range
36 transmission or in either the low or medium range in a
37 3-range transmission;

40 (6) All brakes, axles and suspensions must be
41 certified with respect to weight capacity by a final
42 stage manufacturer. The final stage manufacturer must
43 also certify that the vehicle's axle spacings and
44 interlock devices met the requirements of this
45 paragraph at the time of manufacture;

48 (7) When operating as a 3-axle single unit vehicle:

49 (a) All provisions of this Title appropriate for
50 a 3-axle single unit truck with rear tandem axle
apply;

2 (b) Commodities permitted by section 1655 may be
4 carried if a permit is obtained in accordance with
6 that section. Gross weight and axle weights must
8 be those specified for 3-axle vehicles for the
10 specific commodities carried; and

12 (c) The basic weight used to calculate fines is a
14 gross vehicle weight road limit of 54,000 pounds
16 or the axle weight limits provided by this
18 section, as appropriate. If there are 2 or more
20 weight violations, the largest fine only applies;

22 (8) When operating as a 4-axle or 5-axle single unit
24 vehicle:

26 (a) Axle 5 must be fully lowered and in contact
28 with the ground at all times;

30 (b) All provisions of this Title appropriate for
32 a 4-axle single unit truck with rear tri-axle
34 apply, using the tri-axle group limits for axles 2
36 to 5;

38 (c) Commodities permitted by section 1655 may be
40 carried provided that a permit is obtained in
42 accordance with that section. Gross weight and
44 axle weights are those specified for 4-axle or
46 5-axle vehicles for the specific commodities
48 carried, as appropriate; and

50 (d) The basic weight used to calculate fines is a
52 gross vehicle weight road limit of 69,000 pounds
54 or the axle weight limits provided by this
56 section, as appropriate. If there are 2 or more
58 weight violations, the largest fine only applies;

60 (9) When operating a 6-axle single unit vehicle:

62 (a) The vehicle must be registered for at least
64 77,200 pounds;

66 (b) Only forest products may be carried;

68 (c) A special commodity permit in accordance with
70 section 1655 must be obtained;

72 (d) All liftable axles must be in contact with
74 the ground except that axles 2 and 6 may be
76 temporarily lifted when necessary during cornering
78 operations. Immediately following this cornering
80 operations.

2 (1) The wheelbase of the semitrailer, measured as the
4 distance from the kingpin to the center of the rearmost
 axle of the semitrailer, may not exceed 43 feet.

6 (2) The kingpin setback of the semitrailer, measured
8 as the distance from the kingpin to the front of the
 semitrailer, may not exceed 3 1/2 feet in length.

10 (3) The rear overhang of the semitrailer, measured as
12 the distance from the center of the rear tandem axles
 of the semitrailer to the rear of the semitrailer, may
14 not exceed 35% of the wheelbase of the semitrailer.

16 (4) The semitrailer must be equipped with a rear
18 underride guard that is of sufficient strength to
20 prevent a motor vehicle from penetrating underneath the
22 semitrailer, extends across the rear of the semitrailer
 to within 4 inches of the lateral extremities of the
 semitrailer and is placed at a height not exceeding 22
 inches from the surface of the ground as measured when
 the semitrailer is empty and is on a level surface.

24 (5) The semitrailer must be equipped with vehicle
26 lights that comply with or exceed federal standards and
28 reflective material approved by the Commissioner of
30 Transportation that must be located on the semitrailer
 in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The
 semitrailer must display a conspicuous warning on the
 rear of the semitrailer indicating that the vehicle
 combination has a wide turning radius.

32 (6) The semitrailer and the tractor used in
34 combination with the semitrailer may not have liftable
 axles.

36 (7) The maximum gross weight of the tractor and
38 semitrailer combination may not exceed 80,000 pounds or
40 the maximum gross vehicle weight permitted by section
 1652, whichever is less.

42 (8) The overall length of the tractor and semitrailer
44 combination may not exceed 70 feet, including all
 structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or
46 temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle.

48 (9) The width of the semitrailer and the distance
50 between the outer surface edges of the semitrailer's
 tires must be 102 inches, except that the width of a
 flatbed or lowboy semitrailer, measured as the distance
 between the outer surface edges of the semitrailer's

2 tires, must be at least 96 inches but no more than 102
inches.

4 (10) A 53-foot semitrailer access permit must be
6 obtained from the Department of Transportation. The
8 permit must apply to a specific motor carrier, specify
10 routing and any other travel conditions and be carried
12 in the power unit of this vehicle combination at all
14 times. Access to service facilities for the purpose of
food, fuel, repairs and rest must be permitted only on
intersecting crossroads within 1/2 mile of the system
of federal aid primary highways designated by the
Commissioner of Transportation for 53-foot semitrailer
travel.

16 (11) A trailer permit must be obtained from the
18 Secretary of State. The fee, which is nontransferable
20 and nonrefundable, is \$120 per year for a maximum of 2
22 years or \$10 per month or portion of a month for a
24 period of from one to 24 months. The Secretary of
26 State shall issue an identification decal of such size
and design as the Secretary of State prescribes that
must be permanently affixed to the exterior of the
semitrailer in a location the Secretary of State
specifies and the decal must be at all times visible
and legible.

28 (12) This vehicle combination may not transport cargo
30 that has been prohibited for this vehicle combination
by the Commissioner of Transportation.

32 The Secretary of State shall adopt rules for the operation
34 and permitting of this vehicle combination in accordance
with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

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38 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

40 Part A of this bill authorizes a 6-axle single unit vehicle
42 under a special commodity permit that allows a maximum gross
weight of 85,000 pounds when carrying only forest products.

44 Part B of this bill establishes a permit authorizing
46 operation of a combination vehicle containing a 53-foot
semitrailer on highways designated by the Commissioner of
Transportation.

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