

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1527, L.D. 2156, Bill, "An Act to Clarify Permit Provisions for General Commodity Vehicles with a Maximum Gross Weight of 100,000 Pounds"

Amend the bill by striking out the first 2 lines after the enacting clause (page 1, lines 3 and 4 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

Sec. 1. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1991, c. 307, §3 and c. 410, Pt. A, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. A vehicle or combination of vehicles may not 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. Vehicles having 2 axles may not be operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 34,000 pounds. A vehicle or combination of vehicles having 3 axles may not be operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 54,000 pounds. A vehicle or combination of vehicles having 4 axles or, except as provided in paragraph G, any single unit vehicle having 5 or more axles, may not be operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 69,000 pounds. Except as provided in paragraphs E, F and H, a vehicle or combination of vehicles having 5 or more axles may not be operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 80,000 pounds. 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 gross weight that does not exceed the following formula, or 80,000 pounds, whichever is less:

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

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.

Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 1991, c. 307, §6 and c. 411, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Further amend the bill in paragraph F in subparagraph (4) by striking out all of division (c).

Further amend the bill in paragraph F in subparagraph (4) by relettering the divisions to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. The axle and gross weight limits enumerated in this paragraph supersede those enumerated in section 1655. A combination vehicle consisting of a 4-axle single unit truck operating in combination with a 2-axle trailer may be operated, or caused to be operated, with a maximum gross weight of 94,000 pounds if the following conditions are met.

(1) The trailer unit is registered for a minimum of 28,000 pounds gross weight and the combined registered weight of the truck and trailer unit is at least 85,000 pounds gross weight.

(2) A special commodity permit is obtained from the Secretary of State in accordance with section 1655 and carried in the vehicle at all times.

(3) Only those commodities permitted under section 1655 may be carried when a vehicle is being operated at a gross vehicle weight exceeding 80,000 pounds.

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(4) The following single axle weights may not be exceeded.

(a) For a steering axle, the limit is the lesser of 14,000 pounds or the weight limit provided by subsection 2, paragraph C.

(b) For 2 to 4 truck axles, the limit is 20,000 pounds for each axle.

(c) For trailer axles, the limit is 18,000 pounds for each axle.

(5) The gross weight of the triaxle, which is the sum of the weight of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th axles of the truck, may not exceed 50,000 pounds.

(6) When operating at a gross vehicle weight exceeding 88,000 pounds, all liftable axles of the vehicle must be in full contact with the ground at all times.

(7) The "percent over basic weight" used to calculate fines for weight violations by the vehicle under sections 1654 and 1654-A must be based upon a gross vehicle weight limit of 85,000 pounds or upon the axle weight limits enumerated in subparagraphs (4) and (5), as appropriate;

(8) The following vehicle dimensions must be met.

	<u>At Least</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
<u>Overall Vehicle</u>		
<u>Length</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>65 ft. 0 in.</u>
<u>Axle 1 to Axle 6</u>	<u>56 ft. 10 in.</u>	<u>58 ft. 10 in.</u>
<u>Axle 1 to Axle 2</u>	<u>13 ft. 6 in.</u>	<u>18 ft. 4 in.</u>
<u>Axle 2 to Axle 3</u>	<u>3 ft. 8 in.</u>	<u>5 ft. 0 in.</u>
<u>Axle 3 to Axle 4</u>	<u>3 ft. 8 in.</u>	<u>5 ft. 0 in.</u>
<u>Axle 4 to Axle 5</u>	<u>12 ft. 11 in.</u>	<u>17 ft. 6 in.</u>
<u>Axle 5 to Axle 6</u>	<u>15 ft. 2 in.</u>	<u>20 ft. 7 in.</u>

Axle distances are measured from axle center to axle center.

(9) All brakes, axles and suspensions of both the truck and trailer units must be certified with respect to weight capacity by a final stage manufacturer.

