

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

Legislative Document

No. 2156

H.P. 1527

House of Representatives, January 14, 1992

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

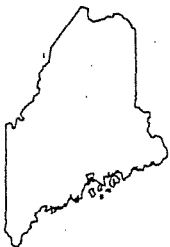
Presented by Representative BAILEY of Farmington.

Cosponsored by Representative MACOMBER of South Portland and Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Clarify Permit Provisions for General Commodity Vehicles
with a Maximum Gross Weight of 100,000 Pounds.**



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

2
3 29 MRSA §1652, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 1991, c. 307, §6
4 and c. 411, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5 F. Paragraphs A, B and E notwithstanding, a combination
6 vehicle consisting of a 3-axle tractor operating in
7 combination with a tri-axle semitrailer may be operated, or
8 caused to be operated, with a maximum gross weight of
9 100,000 pounds if the following requirements are met.

10
11 (1) The distance between the extreme axles, excluding
12 the steering axle, is not less than 36 feet as measured
13 to the nearest foot.

14
15 (2) The minimum distance between the steering axle and
16 the first axle of the tandem axle group is at least 10
17 feet as measured to the nearest foot.

18
19 (3) The maximum weight on the tandem axle does not
20 exceed 41,000 pounds and maximum weight on the tri-axle
21 does not exceed 50,000 pounds.

22
23 (4) For all vehicles manufactured, modified or
24 retrofitted with liftable or variable load suspension
25 axles after October 30, 1991, liftable or variable load
26 suspension axles are permitted only under the following
27 conditions.

28
29 (a) Only one liftable or variable load axle may
30 be present on the tractor and only one liftable or
31 variable load axle may be present on the
32 semitrailer.

33
34 (b) Liftable or variable load axles must be
35 located on the vehicle so that they are legally
36 part of the tandem axle group or tri-axle group as
37 appropriate.

38
39 (c) All controls pertaining to the lifting or
40 lowering of liftable or variable load axles must
41 be located outside of and be inaccessible from the
42 driver's compartment.

43
44 (d) The axle weight rating of liftable or
45 variable load axles must conform to the expected
46 loading of the suspension and must be 20,000
47 pounds or more.
48

2 (5) All brakes, axles and suspensions are certified
4 with respect to weight capacity by a final stage
6 manufacturer. The certification must be presented
8 before the permit is issued. The certification must be
 affixed to or carried in the vehicle and presented upon
 request by any law enforcement officer.

10 (6) Nothing contained in this paragraph applies to
12 vehicles using the Interstate Highway System as defined
 in the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956.

14 (7) A general commodity permit authorizing the
16 operation must have been obtained. The permit must be
18 carried in the vehicle at all times. The fee for an
20 annual permit is \$252 plus any surcharge required under
22 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).

24 Permits may be transferred to another vehicle for an
26 additional fee of \$2. The permit may be obtained upon
28 furnishing proof of certification and payment of the
30 required fee from any branch office of the Secretary of
32 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 \$1 over the required permit fee and may
 retain that \$1 for performing this function.

34 All revenue generated by the permit fee authorized
36 under this subparagraph must be expended for the
 enforcement of truck weight regulations.

38 (8) The vehicle is registered for at least 90,000
40 pounds or the maximum allowable registered weight in
 its home jurisdiction.

42 (9) The owner of any vehicle registered in a
44 jurisdiction where the maximum allowable registered
46 weight is less than 90,000 pounds pays an annual
 surcharge on the general commodity permit of \$105. The
 surcharge may be paid for a period of 3 months or more
 on a monthly prorated basis.

48 (10) A vehicle with a general commodity permit under
50 this paragraph is also permitted to carry those special
52 commodities specified in section 1655 under the
 conditions specified in section 1655, except that no
 additional permit is required.

2 For vehicles operating under this paragraph, gross vehicle
4 weight violations are determined on the basis of 90,000
 pounds.

6

8

STATEMENT OF FACT

10 This bill clarifies provisions of the 100,000-pound general
12 commodity permit that describe the location of lift axle
 controls, minimum axle weight ratings, the carrying of special
14 commodities and the applicable base for gross vehicle weight
 violations fines.