

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 689

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DATE: 5/24/95

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TRANSPORTATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 508, L.D. 689, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Law Regulating 53-foot Semitrailers"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, ¶J, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

J. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a single semitrailer whose total length exceeds 48 feet but does not exceed 53 feet may be operated in combination with a truck tractor on-highways on a highway network and access system designated by the Commissioner of Transportation if the following conditions are met.

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

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

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

(4) The semitrailer must be equipped with a rear underride guard that is of sufficient strength to

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2 prevent a motor vehicle from penetrating underneath the
3 semitrailer, extends across the rear of the semitrailer
4 to within an average distance of 4 inches of the
5 lateral extremities of the semitrailer, exclusive of
6 safety bumper appurtenances, and is placed at a height
7 not exceeding 22 inches from the surface of the ground
8 as measured when the semitrailer is empty and is on a
9 level surface.

10 (5) The semitrailer must be equipped with vehicle
11 lights that comply with or exceed federal standards and
12 reflective material approved by the Commissioner of
13 Transportation that must be located on the semitrailer
14 in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The
15 semitrailer must display a conspicuous warning on the
16 rear of the semitrailer indicating that the vehicle
17 combination has a wide turning radius.

18 (6) The semitrailer and the truck tractor used in
19 combination with the semitrailer may not have liftable
20 axles.

21 (7) The maximum gross weight of the truck tractor and
22 semitrailer combination may not exceed 80,000 pounds or
23 the maximum gross vehicle weight permitted by chapter
24 21, subchapter I, whichever is less.

25 (8) The overall length of the truck tractor and
26 semitrailer combination may not exceed 70 feet,
27 including all structural parts of the vehicle,
28 permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in
29 the vehicle.

30 (9) Notwithstanding section 2380, the width of the
31 semitrailer must be 102 inches, except that the width
32 of the rear safety bumper and appurtenances to the
33 safety bumper may not exceed 103 inches and except that
34 the width of a flatbed or lowboy semitrailer, measured
35 as the distance between the outer surface edges of the
36 semitrailer's tires, must be at least 96 inches but no
37 more than 102 inches.

38 (10) ~~For semitrailers being operated off the~~
39 ~~designated routes, a 53-foot semitrailer access permit~~
40 ~~must be obtained from the Department of~~
41 ~~Transportation. The permit must apply to a specific~~
42 ~~motor carrier, specify routing and any other travel~~
43 ~~conditions and be carried in the truck tractor. Access~~
44 ~~to service facilities for the purpose of food, fuel,~~
45 ~~repairs and rest must be permitted only on intersecting~~

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2 ~~crossroads within 1/2 mile of the system of federal-aid~~
3 ~~primary highways designated by the Commissioner of~~
4 ~~Transportation for 53-foot semitrailer travel. Access~~
5 ~~is permitted to service facilities or terminals within~~
6 ~~1/2 mile of the highway network and access system~~
7 ~~designated by the Commissioner of Transportation for~~
8 ~~53-foot semitrailer traffic. For operations to~~
9 ~~terminals beyond the 1/2-mile distance, an access~~
10 ~~permit specifying the motor carrier, specific routing~~
11 ~~and terminal location must be obtained from the~~
12 ~~Department of Transportation and carried in the truck~~
13 ~~tractor.~~

14 (11) A 53-foot semitrailer permit must be obtained
15 from the Secretary of State. The fee, which is
16 nontransferable and nonrefundable, is \$60 per year for
17 a maximum of 2 years or \$5 per month or portion of a
18 month for a period of from one to 24 months. The
19 Secretary of State shall issue an identification decal
20 of such size and design as the Secretary of State
21 prescribes that must be permanently affixed to the
22 exterior of the semitrailer in a location the Secretary
23 of State specifies and the decal must be at all times
24 visible and legible.

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

28 The Secretary of State shall adopt rules for the permitting
29 of this vehicle combination.'

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

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35 **FISCAL NOTE**

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37 The additional costs to designate additional routes on the
38 State's highway system for the operation of a truck tractor and
39 53-foot semitrailer can be absorbed by the Department of
40 Transportation utilizing existing budgeted resources.

41 The bill may result in insignificant increases of Highway
42 Fund revenue from the collection of additional permit fees.

43 The additional truck and semitrailer traffic on the newly
44 designated routes may result in some additional highway and
45 bridge damage. The exact amount and the resulting increase in
46 highway maintenance costs can not be determined at this time.'

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 508, L.D. 689

STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment replaces the original bill. It provides for the operation of a truck tractor and 53-foot semitrailer on a highway network and access system designated by the Commissioner of Transportation. It provides for access to service facilities within 1/2 mile of the network and access system and for access permits to terminals beyond 1/2 mile. It retains the permit system and permit fees. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.