

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 689

H.P. 508

House of Representatives, February 28, 1995

An Act to Amend the Law Regulating 53-foot Semitrailers.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BAILEY of Township 27.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, CAMERON of Rumford, CLARK of Millinocket, CLUKEY of Houlton, GREENLAW of Standish, JOY of Crystal, MURPHY of Berwick, PLOWMAN of Hampden, REED of Dexter, TUFTS of Stockton Springs, Senator: CASSIDY of Washington.

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, ¶J**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.
4 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6 J. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection,
7 a single semitrailer whose total length exceeds 48 feet but
8 does not exceed 53 feet may be operated in combination with
9 a truck tractor ~~on highways designated by the Commissioner~~
10 ~~of Transportation~~ if the following conditions are met.

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

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

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

24 (4) The semitrailer must be equipped with a rear
25 underride guard that is of sufficient strength to
26 prevent a motor vehicle from penetrating underneath the
27 semitrailer, extends across the rear of the semitrailer
28 to within an average distance of 4 inches of the
29 lateral extremities of the semitrailer, exclusive of
30 safety bumper appurtenances, and is placed at a height
31 not exceeding 22 inches from the surface of the ground
32 as measured when the semitrailer is empty and is on a
33 level surface.

36 (5) The semitrailer must be equipped with vehicle
37 lights that comply with or exceed federal standards and
38 reflective material approved by the Commissioner of
39 Transportation that must be located on the semitrailer
40 in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The
41 semitrailer must display a conspicuous warning on the
42 rear of the semitrailer indicating that the vehicle
43 combination has a wide turning radius.

44 (6) The semitrailer and the truck tractor used in
45 combination with the semitrailer may not have liftable
46 axles.

48 (7) The maximum gross weight of the truck tractor and
49 semitrailer combination may not exceed 80,000 pounds or

2 the maximum gross vehicle weight permitted by chapter
21, subchapter I, whichever is less.

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

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

18
20 ~~(10)---For---semitrailers---being---operated---off---the
designated---routes,---a---53-foot---semitrailer---access---permit
must---be---obtained---from---the---Department---of
22 Transportation,---The---permit---must---apply---to---a---specific
motor---carrier,---specify---routing---and---any---other---travel
24 conditions---and---be---carried---in---the---truck---tractor,---Access
to---service---facilities---for---the---purpose---of---food,---fuel,
26 repairs---and---rest---must---be---permitted---only---on---intersecting
crossroads---within---1/2-mile---of---the---system---of---federal---aid
28 primary---highways---designated---by---the---Commissioner---of
Transportation---for---53-foot---semitrailer---travel.~~

30
32 ~~(11)---A---53-foot---semitrailer---permit---must---be---obtained
from---the---Secretary---of---State,---The---fee,---which---is
nontransferable---and---nonrefundable,---is---\$60---per---year---for
34 a---maximum---of---2---years---or---\$5---per---month---or---portion---of---a
month---for---a---period---of---from---one---to---24---months,---The
36 Secretary---of---State---shall---issue---an---identification---decals
of---such---size---and---design---as---the---Secretary---of---State
38 prescribes---that---must---be---permanently---affixed---to---the
exterior---of---the---semitrailer---in---a---location---the---Secretary
40 of---State---specifies---and---the---decals---must---be---at---all---times
visible---and---legible.~~

42
44 (12) This vehicle combination may not transport cargo
that has been prohibited for this vehicle combination
46 by the Commissioner of Transportation.

48 ~~The---Secretary---of---State---shall---adopt---rules---for---the---permitting
of---this---vehicle---combination.~~

2

STATEMENT OF FACT

4

This bill repeals the law requiring a permit and the payment of a fee for the operation of a single semitrailer longer than 48 feet but not exceeding 53 feet. The bill also repeals the requirement of a permit to operate these semitrailers off certain designated routes.

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