

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 3

S.P. 11

In Senate, January 7, 1997

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Registration of Pickup Trucks.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien", is positioned to the right of the reference text.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of York.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4 Whereas, current law requires the calculation of the gross
vehicle weight for pickup trucks to include anything in tow; and

6 Whereas, this requirement places an unfair burden on certain
owners of pickup trucks by preventing the owners from obtaining
conservation plates and taking part in other options available to
automobile owners; and

8 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

12 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 645,
Pt. C, §8 and affected by §16, is further amended to read:

14 **1. Automobiles; pickup trucks.** The fee for an automobile
or pickup truck used for the conveyance of passengers or
interchangeably for passengers or property is \$23.

16 An automobile used for the conveyance of passengers or property
is a "combination" vehicle and may be issued a special plate with
the word "combination" instead of "Vacationland." A passenger
vehicle used under contract with the State, a municipality or a
school district to transport students must be designated as
"combination." A vehicle owned or operated by parents or legal
guardians is exempt from this subsection.

18 Commercial plates may not be issued for or displayed on an
automobile.

20 The gross weight of a pickup truck registered as provided by this
subsection may not exceed 6,000 pounds. An owner of a pickup
truck who operates the pickup truck with a gross weight in excess
of 6,000 pounds ~~or the pickup truck drawing a semitrailer with a~~
~~combined gross weight in excess of 6,000 pounds~~ must register the
truck as provided in section 504.

22 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §504, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 584,
Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

24 **5. Truck or truck tractor and semitrailer.** In computing
fees for a combination of truck or truck tractor and semitrailer,

2 the vehicle to be registered for gross weight is the truck or
truck tractor and the rate is the same as for a truck of similar
4 gross vehicle weight. The gross weight used to determine the
registration fee under subsection 1 is the combined gross weight
of the truck or truck tractor and semitrailer. This subsection
6 does not apply to pickup trucks.

8 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

12 SUMMARY

14 This bill repeals language that requires pickup trucks
pulling semitrailers to be registered as commercial vehicles if
16 the combined gross weight of the pickup truck and the semitrailer
exceeds 6,000 pounds.