

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 525

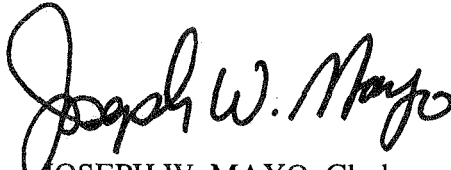
H.P. 380

House of Representatives, January 28, 1997

**An Act to Increase the Availability and Reduce the Cost of Escorts for
Overlimit Movements on the State's Roads.**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MAYO of Bath.
Cosponsored by Senator O'GARA of Cumberland and
Senator SMALL of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: DRISCOLL of Calais, McALEVEY of Waterboro, PEAVEY of Woolwich,
SAVAGE of Union, TRIPP of Topsham, WHEELER of Bridgewater.

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

4 Whereas, pilot vehicles that are 125 feet or more in length
6 or 16 feet or more in width require a police escort; and

8 Whereas, travel through this State of pilot vehicles
increases during the summer months; and

10 Whereas, delay in implementing this legislation would
12 interfere with the smoother flow of traffic of pilot vehicles in
this State; and

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

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

22 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2382, sub-§9,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.
24 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

26 **9. Pilot vehicles and police escorts.** Pilot vehicles
required by a permit must be equipped with warning lights and
28 signs as required by the Secretary of State with the advice of
the Department of Transportation.

30 Warning lights may only be operated and lettering on the signs
32 may only be visible on a pilot vehicle while it is escorting on a
public way a vehicle with a permit.

34 The Secretary of State shall require a State Police, county
36 sheriff or municipal police escort for a single vehicle or a
combination of vehicles of 125 feet or more in length or 16 feet
38 or more in width. The Secretary of State, with the advice of the
Commissioner of Transportation, may require vehicles of lesser
40 dimensions to be escorted by the State Police, county sheriff or
municipal police.

42 The Bureau of State Police shall establish a fee for State Police
44 escorts. A county sheriff or municipal police department may
establish a fee for escorts. A permittee may select the law
46 enforcement agency to provide the escort.

48 All fees collected must be used to defray the cost of services
provided.

50

2 With the advice of the Commissioner of Transportation and the
Chief of the State Police, the Secretary of State shall establish
4 rules for the operation of pilot vehicles.

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

8
10 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill provides that a county sheriff or municipal police
officer may serve as an escort for certain oversized vehicles.
14 Current law requires a State Police escort. The bill also
provides that a county sheriff or municipal police department may
16 establish fees for escorts and that a permittee may select the
law enforcement agency to provide the escort.