

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1457

H.P. 1065

House of Representatives, March 27, 2003

An Act To Make Technical Amendments to Truck Size and Weight Laws

Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINS of Wells.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVAGE of Knox.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§8-A** is enacted to read:

6 **8-A. Axle weight.** "Axle weight" means the weight of an axle plus the weight of the load carried by the axle.

8 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§23-A** is enacted to read:

10 **23-A. Final-stage manufacturer.** "Final-stage manufacturer" means a manufacturer who performs manufacturing operations on an incomplete vehicle such that the vehicle becomes complete.

14 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§§26-A and 26-B** are enacted to read:

16 **26-A. Gross vehicle weight.** "Gross vehicle weight" or "GVW" means the actual total weight of the vehicle and load.

20 **26-B. Gross vehicle weight rating.** "Gross vehicle weight rating" or "GVWR" means the weight of the vehicle and load as determined by the final-stage manufacturer, as the rating appears on the vehicle.

24 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§29-A** is enacted to read:

26 **29-A. Interstate highway, interstate system or interstate highway system.** "Interstate highway," "interstate system" or "interstate highway system" has the same meaning as defined in Title 23, section 1903, subsection 3, except that it does not include that portion of the Maine Turnpike designated Interstate 95 and 495 and that portion of Interstate 95 from the southern terminus of the Maine Turnpike to the New Hampshire state line.

34 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§60-A** is enacted to read:

36 **60-A. Registered weight.** "Registered weight" means the gross vehicle weight specified on the vehicle's registration certificate.

40 **Sec. 6. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§66-A** is enacted to read:

42 **66-A. Single-axle unit.** "Single-axle unit" means one axle, or 2 axles less than 4 feet apart as measured from axle center to axle center.

46 **Sec. 7. 29-A MRS §101, sub-§78-A** is enacted to read:

48 **78-A. Tandem-axle unit.** "Tandem-axle unit" means 2 or more axles at least 4 feet and not more than 8 feet apart, as measured from axle center to axle center of the extreme axles.

2 **Sec. 8. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§§86-A and 86-B** are enacted to
read:

4 **86-A. Tri-axle semitrailer.** "Tri-axle semitrailer" means a
6 semitrailer that contains one tri-axle unit.

8 **86-B. Tri-axle unit.** "Tri-axle unit" means 3 axles more
10 than 8 feet and less than 12 feet apart, as measured between the
12 centers of the first and 3rd axles. If the axle center of a
14 single-axle unit is closer than 10 feet, or 9 feet in the case of
a steering axle, to the axle center of the nearest axle of a
tri-axle unit, the 4 axles are a tri-axle unit.

16 **Sec. 9. 29-A MRSA §2353, sub-§4, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed.

18 **Sec. 10. 29-A MRSA §2357, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1999, c.
20 580, §8 and affected by §14, is further amended to read:

22 **4. Six-axle combination.** Notwithstanding subsection 2, a
24 6-axle combination vehicle, consisting of a 3-axle truck tractor
operating in combination with a tri-axle semitrailer may not
26 exceed 100,000 pounds. The distance between the extreme axles of
a vehicle under this subsection, excluding the steering axle,
28 must be at least 32 feet and the vehicle must be registered for
at least 90,000 pounds. The maximum gross vehicle weight
30 permitted is reduced by 2,000 pounds for each foot the distance
is less than 32 feet between the extreme axles, excluding the
steering axle, measured to the nearest foot.

32 **Sec. 11. 29-A MRSA §2382, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.
34 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

36 **6. Scope of permit.** A permit is limited to the particular
vehicle or object to be moved, the trailer or semitrailer hauling
38 the overlimit object and particular ways and bridges.

40 **Sec. 12. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 1993,
c. 683, pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

42 F. A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer and full
44 trailer, or a combination of truck tractor and 2
semitrailers, may be operated on the Interstate Highway
46 System and those qualifying federal aid primary system
highways designated by the Secretary of the United States
48 Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States
Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law
97-424, Section 411, with an overall length in excess of 65

2 feet, if no semitrailer or trailer length exceeds 28.5
3 feet. This vehicle combination may also operate on other
4 highways designated by the Commissioner of Transportation.

6 **Sec. 13. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, ¶J**, as amended by PL 2001, c.
7 267, §13 and affected by §16, is further amended by repealing
8 subparagraph (6).

10 **Sec. 14. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, ¶J**, as amended by PL 2001, c.
11 267, §13 and affected by §16, is further amended by adding at the
12 end new subparagraphs (13) and (14) to read:

14 (13) The maximum gross weight of the truck tractor and
15 semitrailer combination may not exceed 80,000 pounds or
16 the maximum gross vehicle weight permitted by
17 subchapter 1, whichever is less, whenever the vehicle
18 is traveling on the Maine Turnpike or Interstate 95
19 from the southern terminus of the Maine Turnpike to the
20 New Hampshire state line.

22 (14) This paragraph does not apply to a trailer or
23 semitrailer when transporting or returning empty from
24 transporting a nondivisible load or object under the
25 provisions of an overlimit permit granted by section
26 2382.

28 SUMMARY

30 This bill clarifies that certain definitions apply to the
31 entire Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A.

32 This bill restores the gross vehicle weight reduction
33 provisions for shorter wheelbase 6-axle combination vehicles that
34 were inadvertently repealed in 1999.

36 This bill provides that an overlimit permit will also cover
37 the trailer or semitrailer used to haul the overlimit load, in
38 the event that the trailer or semitrailer also exceeds normal
39 width or length limits.

42 This bill makes clear that the same length provisions apply
43 on the network designated by the Commissioner of Transportation
44 for double 28 1/2 trailer-semitrailer vehicles as would apply on
45 the national highway network.

48 This bill repeals the lift axle prohibition for vehicles
49 hauling semitrailers between 48 feet and 53 feet in length.

50 This bill restores the 80,000-pound gross vehicle weight

2 maximum for vehicles with semitrailers between 48 feet and 53
3 feet in length if they are traveling on the Maine Turnpike or on
4 Interstate 95 from the southern terminus of the Maine turnpike to
5 the New Hampshire state line. The bill's provision removes an
6 inconsistency of state law with a federal law exempting the Maine
7 Turnpike and Interstate 95 from the southern terminus of the
8 Maine turnpike to the New Hampshire state line from federal truck
weight regulations.