

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 334

H.P. 257

House of Representatives, January 20, 2005

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**An Act Allowing Certain Commercial Vehicles at Canadian Weight  
Limits To Travel from the Canadian Border at Houlton to New  
Limerick and from the Canadian Border at Calais to Baileyville**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative JOY of Crystal.  
Cosponsored by Senator RAYE of Washington and  
Representatives: CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, HOTHAM of Dixfield, McFADDEN of  
Dennysville, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, Senator: PLOWMAN of Penobscot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2354-B** is enacted to read:

6 **§2354-B. Pilot project to allow commercial vehicles at**  
8 **Canadian weight limits to travel from Canadian**  
10 **border at Houlton to New Limerick and from the**  
12 **Canadian border at Calais to Baileyville**

14 **1. Pilot project.** Notwithstanding section 2354, the  
16 Commissioner of Transportation, in consultation with the  
18 Department of Public Safety and the Department of the Secretary  
20 of State, is authorized to conduct a pilot project that allows  
22 certain commercial vehicles at Canadian gross vehicle weight  
24 limits to travel from the Canadian border at Houlton to New  
26 Limerick and from the Canadian border at Calais to Baileyville.  
28 This pilot project must include the following conditions and  
30 components.

32 **A. The only allowable routes of travel under the pilot**  
34 **project are as follows:**

36 (1) Travel from the United States-Canada border at  
38 Houlton westerly on U.S. Route 2 to the intersection of  
40 U.S. Route 1, then north on U.S. Route 1 to the  
42 intersection of U.S. Route 2, then westerly on U.S.  
44 Route 2 to the Station Road in New Limerick;

46 (2) Travel from the United States-Canada border at  
48 Houlton westerly on U.S. Route 2 to the intersection of  
50 U.S. Route 2-A, then westerly on U.S. Route 2-A to the  
railyard on Bangor Road in Houlton; and

(3) Travel from the United States-Canada border in  
Calais north on U.S. Route 1 to Main Street in  
Baileyville.

**B. Allowable truck configuration under this pilot project**  
**must be limited to:**

(1) A 3-axle truck tractor with a 3-axle semitrailer  
at a gross vehicle weight of 108,900 pounds; and

(2) A 3-axle truck tractor with a  
semitrailer-semitrailer combination, configured as a  
B-train double with 8 axles total, at a gross vehicle  
weight of 137,700 pounds. The weight of the 2nd  
semitrailer may not exceed the weight of the first  
semitrailer.

2 C. Maine axle weight limits, axle group limits, commodity  
4 allowances, maximum dimensions and all other commercial  
6 vehicle limits and requirements must apply under the pilot  
8 project, except that the B-train double overall length limit  
10 must be 82.02 feet, or 25 meters.

12 D. The manufacturer's ratings for gross vehicle weight,  
14 axle capacity, brake systems and other components for which  
16 a manufacturer's rating is available may not be exceeded  
18 under the pilot project.

20 E. Each truck combination under the pilot project must  
22 display a credential obtained for a fee from the Secretary  
24 of State. The fee must be established by the Commissioner  
26 of Transportation in an amount to cover related  
28 administrative costs, compliance monitoring and the  
30 additional cost of highway damage resulting from the pilot  
32 project, calculated using accepted engineering practices.  
34 The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to implement this  
36 paragraph in consultation with the Department of  
38 Transportation and the Department of Public Safety. Rules  
40 adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical  
42 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

44 F. The Commissioner of Transportation may revoke the  
46 privileges under the pilot project of participating trucks  
48 and trucking companies for cause, including repeatedly  
50 exceeding size and weight limits or operating outside the  
designated route of travel. Revocation by the Commissioner  
of Transportation is considered a final agency action.

**2. Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context  
otherwise indicates, "B-train double" means a truck  
tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination vehicle in which the  
2 trailing units are connected with a B-train assembly. The  
B-train assembly is a rigid frame extension attached to the rear  
frame of a first semitrailer that allows for a 5th wheel  
connection point for a 2nd semitrailer. This combination has one  
less articulation point than the conventional A-dolly-connected  
truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination.

**3. Report.** The Commissioner of Transportation shall submit  
a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
having jurisdiction over transportation matters for presentation  
to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature. The  
report must include the status of the pilot project and  
recommendations for continuance, discontinuance or modification  
of the pilot project's terms.

**4. Repeal.** This section is repealed December 31, 2014.

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## SUMMARY

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6 This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to  
conduct a pilot project allowing certain commercial vehicle  
8 configurations at Canadian weight limits to travel from the  
Canadian border at Houlton to New Limerick and from the Canadian  
border at Calais to Baileyville. The bill requires trucks  
10 participating in the pilot project to display a credential  
obtained for a fee from the Secretary of State. The bill directs  
12 the Secretary of State to adopt routine technical rules to  
implement the credentialing process. The bill also requires the  
14 Commissioner of Transportation to submit a report on the status  
of the pilot project and recommendations to the joint standing  
16 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
transportation matters for presentation to the First Regular  
18 Session of the 126th Legislature.