

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2209

H.P. 1576

House of Representatives, February 12, 2008

An Act To Amend the Axle Weight Laws for Trucks Transporting Unprocessed Agricultural Products and Forest Products

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative THOMAS of Ripley.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and
Representatives: CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland, MARLEY
of Portland, TARDY of Newport, Senators: RAYE of Washington, ROSEN of Hancock,
SAVAGE of Knox, WESTON of Waldo.

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

3 **Whereas,** Maine is dependent on its natural resources-based economy; and

4 **Whereas,** the price of diesel fuel in Maine is at an all-time high and is devastating
5 the Maine economy, especially with regard to loggers and truckers carrying forest
6 products and unprocessed agricultural products; and

7 **Whereas,** Governor John E. Baldacci has already issued a Declaration of Civil
8 Emergency regarding the high price of diesel fuel and its impact on the State’s forest
9 products industry; and

10 **Whereas,** this legislation seeks to reduce the economic burdens imposed by axle
11 weight limits on vehicles transporting unprocessed agricultural products or forest
12 products; and

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

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

18 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2353, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

19 **4-A. Vehicles transporting unprocessed agricultural products or forest**
20 **products. Notwithstanding subsection 4, a vehicle transporting unprocessed agricultural**
21 **products or forest products that exceeds the axle weight limits and axle weight tolerance**
22 **restrictions imposed under this chapter is not subject to a fine for a violation of those**
23 **limits and restrictions unless the vehicle exceeds the maximum gross vehicle weight**
24 **limits, including tolerances, imposed under this chapter.**

25 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
26 legislation takes effect when approved.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill provides that a vehicle transporting unprocessed agricultural products or
29 forest products that exceeds the axle weight limits and axle weight tolerance restrictions
30 imposed under Maine law is not subject to a fine for a violation of those limits and
31 restrictions unless the vehicle exceeds the maximum gross vehicle weight limits,
32 including tolerances.