

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2214

H.P. 1581

House of Representatives, February 14, 2008

Resolve, To Provide Temporary Weight Limits for Trucks Carrying 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 COTTA of China.
Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and
Representatives: CURTIS of Madison, EATON of Sullivan, EDGECOMB of Caribou,
LANSLEY of Sabattus, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, SIROIS of Turner, THIBODEAU of
Winterport, Senator: DAMON of Hancock.

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

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,** the Coalition to Lower Fuel Prices in Maine was recently established and
11 has been meeting to find solutions to the high price of diesel fuel; and

12 **Whereas,** an increase in weight limits for certain trucks carrying forest products can
13 be tolerated by Maine's roads and bridges when allowed for a short duration; and

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

18 **Sec. 1. Weight limits for certain vehicles carrying forest products.**

19 **Resolved:** That, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 2353
20 or 2357, on and after the effective date of this section but before April 1, 2008, a vehicle
21 otherwise subject to the weight limits established in section 2353, subsections 1 and 4 is
22 subject to a temporary tolerance and is not in violation of those weight limits if the
23 vehicle is carrying forest products and its gross vehicle weight and axle weights are less
24 than the applicable weight limits specified in section 2353, subsections 1 and 4 plus 5%.
25 This temporary tolerance does not otherwise affect the application of the Maine Revised
26 Statutes, Title 29-A, section 2353 or 2357 or the base fine for vehicles that exceed this
27 temporary tolerance.

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

30

SUMMARY

31 This resolve provides that, on and after the effective date of this resolve but before
32 April 1, 2008, certain vehicles carrying forest products may weigh 5% more than they
33 would otherwise be allowed to weigh.