

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2010

Legislative Document

No. 1736

S.P. 663

In Senate, January 12, 2010

An Act To Improve Safety on Maine's Primary and Secondary Roads, Reduce Road Maintenance Costs and Improve the Environment and the Economy by Allowing Certain Heavy Commercial Vehicles on the Interstate Highway System in Maine

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAMON of Hancock. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Representative MAZUREK of Rockland and
Senators: GOOLEY of Franklin, President MITCHELL of Kennebec; RAYE of Washington,
SCHNEIDER of Penobscot, Representatives: BROWNE of Vassalboro, CEBRA of Naples,
HARLOW of Portland, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, PEOPLES of Westbrook, Speaker
PINGREE of North Haven, PIOTTI of Unity, TARDY of Newport, THERIAULT of
Madawaska, THOMAS of Ripley.

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,** the United States Congress has enacted and the President of the United
4 States has signed legislation allowing vehicles up to 100,000 pounds gross vehicle weight
5 on all of the Interstate Highway System in Maine; and

6 **Whereas,** the federal legislation allows these larger vehicles on the Interstate for a
7 period of only one year beginning December 16, 2009, the date the President signed the
8 legislation; and

9 **Whereas,** the Governor has signed a proclamation allowing certain heavier vehicles
10 to travel on the Interstate until the Legislature acts to conform Maine law to the heavier
11 allowances in federal law; and

12 **Whereas,** amending the law to allow for heavier vehicles to travel on the Interstate
13 Highway System in Maine rather than on local roads promotes the interests of safety, less
14 pollution and more cost-effective commercial transportation; and

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

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

20 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2355-A** is enacted to read:

21 **§2355-A. Six-axle truck weight pilot project**

22 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter to the contrary, for as long as
23 the provisions of 23 United States Code, Section 127 (a) (11) affording an exemption
24 from the federal vehicle weight limitations for vehicles operating on all portions of the
25 interstate system are in effect, a 6-axle combination vehicle consisting of a 3-axle truck
26 tractor with a tri-axle semitrailer having a maximum gross vehicle weight of 100,000
27 pounds may, if otherwise in compliance with the requirements of this Title, be operated
28 on any portion of the interstate system subject to the provisions of section 2354.

29 Special exemptions and exceptions authorized under this subchapter, including but
30 not limited to those providing tolerances or relaxed fines for vehicles carrying special
31 commodities or forest products, and those authorized under sections 2354-A, 2354-C and
32 2357 do not apply to vehicles authorized to travel on the interstate system under this
33 section.

34 For the purposes of this section, "interstate system" has the same meaning as in Title
35 23, section 1903, subsection 3.

36 **Sec. 2. Retroactivity.** This Act applies retroactively to December 16, 2009.

