

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - N I N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 470

H. P. 1188

House of Representatives, February 7, 1939.

Referred to Committee on Motor Vehicles and sent up for concurrence.
500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Paul of Portland.

S T A T E O F M A I N E

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-NINE

AN ACT Amending the Law Relative to Registration of Motor Vehicles.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 29, § 1, amended. Section 1 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes as amended is hereby further amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 1. Terms defined. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the word “way” includes all kinds of public ways; the word “team” and the word “vehicle” shall each include all kinds of conveyances on such ways for persons and for property, except those propelled or drawn by human power, or used exclusively on tracks; the word “trailer” shall mean any vehicle without motive power, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, not operated on tracks, and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle; the word “semi-trailer” shall mean any vehicle without motive power designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so designed that some part of its weight and of its load rests upon or is carried by such motor vehicle, **and shall include pole dollies, pole dickeys, so called, and wheels commonly used as a support for the ends of logs or other long articles;** the term “truck tractor” shall mean any motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and

not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and the load so drawn; the term "farm tractor" shall mean any motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry; the term "road tractor" shall mean any motor vehicle designed and used for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry any load thereon either independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle or load so drawn; the term "solid tires" shall include tires of rubber or other material that do not depend on confined air for the support of the load; the term "pneumatic tire" shall mean every tire in which confined air is designed to support the load; the term "motor vehicle" shall mean any self propelled vehicle not operated exclusively on tracks, including motorcycles. The term "motor truck" shall mean any motor vehicle designed or used for the conveyance of property; the word "tractor" shall also include any motor truck designed or used for the sole purpose of hauling or partially carrying trailers or semi-trailers; the word "motorcycle" shall mean all motor operated vehicles of the bicycle or tricycle type, whether the motive power be a part thereof, or attached thereto, and having pedals and saddle with driver sitting astride or a platform on which said driver stands; the word "owner" shall mean any person, firm, corporation, or association owning a vehicle or having exclusive right to the use thereof under contract, lease, hiring, or otherwise; the word "curb" shall mean the outer edge of a defined sidewalk or either edge of the wrought or usually travelled part of a way; the word "section" shall refer to this chapter unless otherwise indicated; and the words in the context indicating operation or use of a vehicle refer to its operation or use upon any way or bridge in this state, including public parks or parkways.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 29, § 54, subsection c, amended. Subsection c of section 54, of chapter 29 of the revised statutes as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'c. Trailers.

	Per 100 lbs. gross weight of vehicle and load
Equipped with	
Pneumatic tires	15 cents
Solid rubber tires	40 cents
Iron, steel or other hard tires	75 cents

The minimum fee shall never be less than \$2.

Trailers ~~and semi-trailers~~ having a carrying capacity of 1,000 pounds or more shall be classified and rated as trucks.

House trailers and camp trailers of the covered wagon type shall be registered and pay a fee of \$5 for such registration.

Not more than one trailer shall be drawn by a motor vehicle.

And provided further that no motor vehicle, including trucks, combination of tractor and semi-trailer, passenger busses and passenger cars shall exceed in length 40 feet over all and no trailer attached to a motor vehicle shall exceed in length 26 feet over all.

Stone-crushers, air compressors, power shovels or cranes, graders, rollers, well-drillers and wood-sawing equipment, any of which are permanently mounted on a traction unit or motor chassis, shall be registered and a fee of \$10 shall be paid for such registration in lieu of all other registration fees.

It is further provided that the movement over the highways of any of the above described equipment, the weight of which is in excess of 10 tons, shall be subject to the provisions of section 21 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended, and permits to move said equipment shall be obtained accordingly.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 29, § 54, subsection e, amended. Subsection e of section 54, of chapter 29 of the revised statutes as amended is hereby further amended to read as follows :

'e. Motorcycle side-cars \$5 each

In computations under this section minor fractions of horse-power and weight shall carry the lower rating, and major fractions shall carry the next higher rating.

Horse-power specified in this chapter shall be based on the "A.L.A.M." standard, so-called.

"Steam vehicles." In the computation of fees for all vehicles propelled by steam, the horse-power rating shall be based on the system of rating adopted by the United States government.

"Electric vehicles." For vehicles propelled by electricity the rating shall be the normal horse-power designated by the manufacturers of the electric motor or motors in the vehicle.

In computation of fees for a combination of truck tractor and semi-trailer, the vehicle to be registered for carrying capacity shall be the ~~semi-trailer~~ **truck-tractor** which shall take the same rating as a truck of similar capacity ; provided, however, that no motor vehicle of either a single unit or combined unit shall be operated on the highway with a load that ex-

ceeds 40,000 pounds, gross weight of vehicle and load. ~~Truck tractors of a manufacturer's rated capacity of 3 tons used for the sole purpose of hauling or conveying semi-trailers, shall pay an annual registration fee of \$10. Truck tractors of a manufacturer's rated capacity of over 3 tons, used for the sole purpose of hauling or conveying semi-trailers, shall pay an annual registration fee of \$15.~~

In the computation of fees based on gross weight, said gross weight, in the case of freight or merchandise vehicles, shall be the actual weight of the vehicle in pounds plus the manufacturer's rated load capacity, and in the case of passenger vehicles shall be the actual weight of the vehicle. In no case shall the registration fee be less than \$10.

On any application for registration applied for by an owner resident of this state, of a motor vehicle or trailer ~~or semi-trailer~~, not including a log hauler, or traction engine, during the period between the 1st day of September and the 31st day of December, $\frac{1}{2}$ the registration fee shall be charged. The secretary of state upon granting the application shall register in a book or upon suitable index cards to be kept for the purpose, the vehicle described in the application, giving to its owner a distinguishing number or other mark, and shall thereupon issue a certificate of registration which shall contain the name, place of residence and address of the owner.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 29, § 59, amended. Section 59 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 59. Weight of commercial vehicles to be plainly indicated on vehicle. Every vehicle intended for commercial use shall have attached thereto in some conspicuous place a plate giving its actual unloaded weight with the weight of its seating or loading capacity, as specified by the manufacturer, or fixed by the secretary of state; or such seating or loading capacity shall be plainly marked or painted on said vehicle. The weight and capacity so appearing shall be prima facie evidence of their correctness., **provided, however, that in case of a combination of truck tractor and semi-trailer, the truck tractor shall be marked with its weight and the total carrying capacity of the combined vehicles. Any semi-trailers used in such combination shall be marked with only its actual unloaded weight.'**

Sec. 5. R. S., c. 29, § 60, amended. Section 60 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes as amended, is hereby further amended by adding at the end thereof, the following:

'Every operator of combinations of truck tractor and semi-trailer may make application upon a blank supplied by the secretary of state for a

generally distinguishing number, color or mark. The secretary of state may, if satisfied with the facts stated in the application, grant the application and issue to the applicant a certificate of registration, containing the name, place of residence, and address of the applicant, and the generally distinguishing number, color or mark assigned to him and made in such form as the secretary of state may determine; and all semi-trailers operated by said applicant on the highway shall be regarded as registered under such generally distinguishing number, color or mark when operated upon the highways of this state. The secretary of state shall furnish said operator with one number plate to be displayed on the rear of each semi-trailer so operated;

The fee for each number plate shall be \$5.

Extra number plates shall be furnished to replace lost or mutilated plates for 75 cents each.'

Sec. 6. R. S., c. 29, § 110, amended. Section 110 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 110. Truck, tractor, trailer, or semi-trailer, with a load greater than that specified on registration certificate not to be operated on highway. No person shall operate, or cause to be operated any truck, tractor, trailer, or **combination of truck tractor and** semi-trailer, with a load that is more than 20% above that specified in the registration certificate for such vehicle for trucks of capacity of not over 4 tons; 10% for trucks of capacity of not over 6 tons; and 5% for trucks of capacity of over 6 tons.

No person, firm, or corporation, shall, as a condition of employment, or otherwise, require or knowingly permit the operation of any vehicle on the highway with a load greater than permitted by this statute.

Any penalty imposed by this section may be imposed on either the operator or whoever requires, or knowingly permits, such operation, or may be imposed on both.'