

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1114**

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S. P. 532

In Senate, April 5, 1941.

Pursuant to Senate Order, 650 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Relating to the Weight of Motor Vehicles.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 29, § 54, amended.** The following paragraph of subsection lettered "c" of section 54 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'And provided further, that no motor vehicle, including trucks, ~~combination of tractor and semitrailer~~, 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; **no combination of tractor and semitrailer shall exceed in length 42 feet over all.**'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 29, § 54, amended.** The following paragraph of subsection lettered "e" of section 54 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'In computation of fees for a combination of truck tractor and semitrailer, the vehicle to be registered for carrying capacity shall be the 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 exceeds ~~40,000~~ **pounds, the gross weight of vehicle and load as set forth in section 56.**'

**Sec. 3. R. S., c. 29, § 56, amended.** Section 56 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**‘Sec. 56. Weight of commercial vehicles limited.** Subject to the limitations imposed for axle and tire loads, no motor truck, tractor, truck tractor or combination of motor truck, tractor, truck tractor and trailer or semitrailer or other commercial vehicle shall be operated over any way or bridge when the gross weight (actual weight of vehicle and load) exceeds the following:

Two axle motor truck, 30,000 pounds

Three axle motor truck, 40,000 pounds

Truck or tractor and trailer or semitrailer,  
according to the formula  $W=600(L+40)$ , where

$W$ =total gross weight, in pounds

$L$ =the distance between the first and last axles in feet.  $L$  shall have a maximum value of 37 feet.

An axle load is the total load imparted to the road by all wheels whose centers may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart. No vehicle shall be so operated with an axle load in excess of 18,000 pounds, except that the axle load for a 2 axle motor truck may be 22,000 pounds, and provided that if 2 or more axles are less than 10 feet apart the axle load shall not exceed 16,000 pounds.

No vehicle shall be so operated when the load imparted to the road surface is greater than 600 pounds per inch width of tire (manufacturer’s rating).’

**Sec. 4. R. S., c. 29, § 21, amended.** Section 21 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 121 of the public laws of 1937, is hereby further amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:

‘Provided, further, that said state highway commission shall not issue any such emergency overweight permits to any applicant therefor unless such applicant shall have paid to the secretary of state the maximum registration fee payable under the provisions of section 57 of this chapter, as amended, for the year in which said permit is issued.’