

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 782**

H. P. 1194

House of Representatives, February 13, 1947

Referred to the Committee on Motor Vehicles, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Bird of Rockland.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Limiting the Weight, Length, Width and Height 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. 19, § 100, amended.** Section 100 of chapter 19 of the revised statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

**'Sec. 100. Weight of commercial vehicles limited.** No motor truck, trailer, tractor, combination of truck tractor and semi-trailer, or other commercial vehicle shall be operated **on or** over any way or bridge when the gross weight (actual weight of vehicle and load) exceeds ~~40,000~~ **50,000** pounds. No vehicle having two axles shall be so operated when the gross weight ~~is in excess of 30,000~~ **exceeds 32,000** pounds.

No group of axles shall carry a load in pounds in excess of the value given in the following table corresponding to the distance in feet between the extreme axles of the group, measured longitudinally to the nearest foot:

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of axles	Maximum load in pounds carried on any group of axles
4 .....	32,000
5 .....	32,000

6	32,000
7	32,000
8	32,610
9	33,580
10	34,550
11	35,510
12	36,470
13	37,420
14	38,360
15	39,300
16	40,230
17	41,160
18	42,080
19	42,990
20	43,900
21	44,800
22	45,700
23	46,590
24	47,470
25	48,350
26	49,220
27 and over	50,000

provided, however, that no vehicle shall have a gross weight imparted to any road surface of more than 22,000 pounds on any one axle, and no vehicle having two or more axles less than 10 feet apart shall be operated with more than 16,000 pounds imparted to the road surface from either axle; provided further, that 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); except that in special cases, special permits for **the transportation of individual shipments in loads** of greater gross weights may be granted by the state highway commission or such appropriate commission or official as is duly authorized elsewhere in this chapter.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 19, § 15, sub-§ VI, amended.** The 5th paragraph of subsection VI of section 15 of chapter 19 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'In computation of fees for a combination of truck tractor and semi-trailer, 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 com-

bined unit shall be operated on the highway with a load that exceeds ~~40,000~~ 50,000 pounds, gross weight of vehicle and load.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 19, § 15, sub-§ III, amended. The 7th paragraph of subsection III of section 15 of chapter 19 of the revised statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Provided further, that no motor vehicle, including trucks, combination of tractor and semi-trailer, passenger buses and passenger cars shall exceed in length ~~40~~ 45 feet over all including all structural parts thereof, permanent or temporary, and no trailer attached to a motor vehicle shall exceed in length 26 feet over all including all structural parts thereof, permanent or temporary; provided, however, that the load on any motor vehicle, including trucks, combination of tractor and semi-trailer, passenger buses and passenger cars, and the load on any trailer, may extend not exceeding 1 foot 6 inches beyond the rear of the maximum permissible structural length of such motor vehicle or tractor exclusive of tailboard.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 19, § 85, repealed and replaced. Section 85 of chapter 19 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 85. Height and width of motor vehicles and trailers limited. No motor vehicle or trailer which with or without load is wider than 96 inches over all shall be operated upon any way or bridge. No motor vehicle or trailer any structural part of which, permanent or temporary, is more than 12 feet 6 inches in height measured vertically from a plane and level surface of ground or pavement shall be operated upon any way or bridge; provided, however, that the load on any motor vehicle or trailer may extend 1 foot 6 inches above the maximum permissible structural height of such motor vehicle or trailer. No such motor vehicle or trailer shall be operated over any section of way which does not afford adequate structural overhead clearance. No portion of any such vehicle or load, except the reflecting mirror required by this chapter, shall project beyond the side of such vehicle to make a total width greater than herein specified. Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to snow plows and equipment used exclusively for the removal of snow or to construction equipment the uses of which are confined to the limits of highway and bridge construction projects; and provided also, that the provisions of this section shall not be construed as limiting the width of a load of loose hay, pea vines or cornstalks.'

Sec. 5. R. S., c. 19, § 89, repealed and replaced. Section 89 of chapter

19 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 217 of the public laws of 1945, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

**'Sec. 89. Permits for moving heavy objects over ways and bridges; jurisdiction; permits limited. Jurisdiction is vested in the state highway commission to grant emergency permits upon proper application in writing to move objects having a length or width or height or weight greater than specified in this chapter over any way or bridge upon which the money of the state has been expended or over which said commission has assumed control; and like permits may be granted by county commissioners, municipal officers, superintendents of streets, or other road officials having charge of the repair and maintenance of any other way or bridge.**

Said permits shall be issued to cover the emergency or purpose stated in the application and shall be limited as to the particular objects to be moved and the particular ways and bridges which may be used.

Provided, however, that the state highway commission, in respect to state and state aid highways and bridges within city or compact village limits, and municipal officers in respect to all other ways and bridges within such city and compact village limits, may grant permits to operate vehicles having a gross weight exceeding the limit of gross weight in this chapter prescribed, and all such permits may contain any special conditions or provisions which in the opinion of the grantors are necessary.'