# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

## Legislative Document No. 1271

S. P. 452 In Senate, March 10, 1955.

Referred to Committee on Transportation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Cole of Waldo.

## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE

### AN ACT Relating to Weight of Commercial Vehicles.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 22, § 16, sub-§ III, amended.** The sixth paragraph of subsection III of section 16 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'No motor vehicle, or combination of motor vehicle and trailer or semi-trailer, shall exceed in length ~~45~~ 50 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 + foot 6 inches beyond the rear of the maximum permissible structural length of such motor vehicle or tractor~~, ~~exclusive of tailboard~~.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 22, § 109, amended.** Section 109 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 109. Weight of commercial vehicles limited.** No motor truck, trailer, tractor, combination of truck tractor and semi-trailer, or other commercial vehicle shall be operated, or caused to be operated, on or over any way or bridge when the gross weight, actual weight of vehicle and load, exceeds ~~50,000~~ 60,000 pounds. No vehicle having 2 axles shall be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 32,000 pounds, **no vehicle having 3 axles shall be so operated or caused to be operated, when the gross weight exceeds 50,000 pounds and no vehicle having 4 or more axles shall be so operated or caused to be operated when the gross weight exceeds 60,000 pounds.** The operation of the

vehicle shall be prima facie evidence that said operation was caused by the person, firm or corporation holding the permit or certificate for said vehicle from the Public Utilities Commission. ~~No~~ **Two or more axles less than 4 feet apart shall be considered as one axle and 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 | |
|---|---|---|
| | **3 Axle Vehicles** | **4 or More Axle Vehicles** |
| 4 to 7, inclusive | 32,000 | |
| 8 | 32,610 | |
| 9 | 33,580 | |
| 10 | 34,550 | |
| 11 | 35,510 | |
| 12 | 36,470 | |
| 13 | 37,420 | |
| 14 | 38,360 | **45,900** |
| 15 | 39,300 | **46,750** |
| 16 | 40,230 | **47,600** |
| 17 | 41,160 | **48,450** |
| 18 | 42,080 | **49,300** |
| 19 | 42,990 | **50,150** |
| 20 | 43,900 | **51,000** |
| 21 | 44,800 | **51,850** |
| 22 | 45,700 | **52,700** |
| 23 | 46,590 | **53,550** |
| 24 | 47,470 | **54,400** |
| 25 | 48,350 | **55,525** |
| 26 | 49,220 | **56,100** |
| 27 and over | 50,000 | **56,950** |
| **28** | | **57,800** |
| **29** | | **58,650** |
| **30** | | **59,520** |
| **31 and over** | | **60,000** |

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 2 or more axles less than 10 feet apart shall be operated, or caused to be operated, with more than ~~16,000~~ **18,000** pounds imparted to the road surface from either axle **or 32,000 pounds from both axles**; provided further, that no vehicle shall be so operated, or caused to be operated, when the load imparted to the road surface is greater than 600 pounds per inch width tire, manufacturer's rating; except, however, that 3-axle trucks with brakes on the wheels of all axles hauling forest products may be operated for a gross weight of 48,000 pounds with a distance between the extreme axles of not less than 18 feet and except, further, that 3-axle trucks with brakes on the wheels of all axles hauling construction materials may be operated for a gross weight of 48,000 pounds with a distance

between the extreme axles of not less than 16 feet and except that in special cases, special permits for the transportation of individual shipments in loads of greater gross weight may be granted by the State Highway Commission or such appropriate commission or official as is duly authorized elsewhere in this chapter.