

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN

H.P. 1048 - L.D. 1524

An Act To Amend Maine Motor Vehicle Laws

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1549, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 591, §1 and affected by §2, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§93, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

93. Wrecker. "Wrecker" means a motor vehicle with hoisting apparatus and special equipment designed and used for towing or carrying wrecked or disabled vehicles or freeing vehicles stalled or stuck in snow, mud or sand, when such a motor vehicle in fact is being used for one of those purposes. "Wrecker" does not include a vehicle designed to carry or tow more than ~~one vehicle~~ 2 vehicles on its own body.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §525, sub-§9-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. A, §32 and affected by §33, is amended to read:

9-A. Violation. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, a person who violates this section commits a ~~Class E crime~~ traffic infraction for which a fine of no more than \$250 may be imposed for the first offense and a fine of no more than \$500 may be imposed for each subsequent offense.

B. A person who displays or causes or permits to be displayed a false decal or permit or a decal or permit issued to another person commits a Class D crime. Violation of this paragraph is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A for which the court shall impose a fine of at least \$250, which may not be suspended.

An owner or operator stopped for violating this section and against whom enforcement action has been taken does not commit a subsequent violation of this section involving the same vehicle until after the close of business on the next business day following the date of the violation.

~~The court shall impose a fine of at least \$250, which may not be suspended.~~

~~Violation of this section is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A.~~

Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §558-A, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2015, c. 176, §1, is further amended to read:

A. A person may not violate any provision of the rules of the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police adopted under section 555 that incorporates by reference any of the following federal regulations or that is an amended version of any of the following federal regulations:

- (1) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 390.21 ~~(2007)~~;
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, paragraph C, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 391.41 ~~(2007)~~;
- (3) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 392.7, 392.8, 392.9(a), 392.9(b), 392.16, 392.22, 392.24, 392.25, 392.33, 392.71, 392.80 and 392.82 ~~(2007)~~;
- (4) Any section of 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 393 ~~(2007)~~;
- (4-A) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 395.3(a)(3)(ii), 395.8(a)(2)(ii), 395.8(d) and 395.8(i) ~~(2014)~~; or
- (5) 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 396, except Sections 396.7 and 396.9 ~~(2007)~~.

Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §1605, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6. Operating without giving proof. A person commits a Class ~~E~~ D crime if that person is required to maintain proof of financial responsibility and, without authorization from the Secretary of State and without that proof, operates a vehicle or knowingly permits a vehicle owned by that person to be operated by another on a public way.

Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §1752, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2013, c. 381, Pt. A, §4, is further amended to read:

3. Antique autos. An antique auto registered under section 457;

Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §1951, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

§1951. Name of owner or lessee displayed

A truck tractor owner or operator shall display on both sides of the truck tractor the name of the owner or lessee in letters ~~not less than 2 1/2 inches in height~~ that meet the standards set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 390.21T, as amended.

Sec. 8. 29-A MRSA §1953, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 29-A MRSA §2120 is enacted to read:

§2120. Smoking in vehicles when minor under 16 years of age is present

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, weed, plant, regulated narcotic or other combustible substance.

2. Prohibition. Smoking is prohibited in a motor vehicle by the operator or a passenger when a person who has not attained 16 years of age is present in that motor vehicle, regardless of whether the motor vehicle's windows are open.

3. Prohibition on inspection or search. A motor vehicle, the contents of the motor vehicle or the operator or a passenger in the motor vehicle may not be inspected or searched solely because of a violation of this section.

4. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 must be adjudged.

Sec. 10. 29-A MRSA §2390, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 306, §8, is further amended to read:

1. Trucks, trailers and recreational vehicles. The following maximum length limits apply to trucks, trailers and recreational vehicles and include permanent or temporary structural parts of the vehicle and load, but do not include refrigeration units or other nonload-carrying appurtenances permitted by federal regulation.

A. A vehicle may not exceed 45 feet, except as provided in this section.

B. The maximum overall length of a combination of vehicles may not exceed 65 feet unless otherwise permitted by law.

C. A trailer or semitrailer may be greater than 45 feet but not more than 48 feet in structural length only if the distance between the center of the rearmost axle of the truck tractor and the center of the rearmost axle of the trailer or semitrailer does not exceed 38 feet.

The overall length of the combination of truck tractor and trailer or semitrailer in this paragraph may not exceed 69 feet, including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle, including any rear overhang.

The interaxle distance and overall combination vehicle length maximum limits required by this paragraph do not apply on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411.

D. The load on a combination vehicle transporting tree-length logs exclusively may extend rearward beyond the body of the vehicle by no more than 8 1/2 feet, as long as no more than 25% of the length of the logs extends beyond the body and the total length of the vehicle and load does not exceed 74 feet.

E. A combination of truck tractor and full trailer or semitrailer may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, if the trailer or semitrailer length does not exceed 48 feet.

F. A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer and full trailer, or a combination of truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, if no semitrailer or trailer length exceeds 28.5 feet. This vehicle combination may also operate on other highways designated by the Commissioner of Transportation.

G. A stinger-steered autotractor may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411, with an overall length not to exceed ~~75~~ 80 feet.

H. A combination vehicle designed for and transporting automobiles may be operated with an additional front overhang of not more than ~~3~~ 4 feet and rear overhang of not more than ~~4~~ 6 feet.

I. Drive-away saddle-mount vehicle transporter combinations with an overall length not exceeding 97 feet may be operated on the Interstate Highway System and those qualifying federal aid primary system highways designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation pursuant to the United States Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Public Law 97-424, Section 411.

J. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a single semitrailer whose total structural length exceeds 48 feet but does not exceed 53 feet may be operated in combination with a truck tractor on a highway network if the following conditions are met.

(1) The wheelbase of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the kingpin to the center of the rearmost axle of the semitrailer, may not exceed 43 feet.

(2) The kingpin setback of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the kingpin to the front of the semitrailer, may not exceed 3 1/2 feet in length.

(3) The rear overhang of the semitrailer, measured as the distance from the center of the rear tandem axles of the semitrailer to the rear of the semitrailer, may not exceed 35% of the wheelbase of the semitrailer.

(4) The semitrailer must be equipped with a rear underride guard that is of sufficient strength to prevent a motor vehicle from penetrating underneath the semitrailer, extends across the rear of the semitrailer to within an average distance of 4 inches of the lateral extremities of the semitrailer, exclusive of safety bumper appurtenances, and is placed at a height not exceeding 22 inches

from the surface of the ground as measured when the semitrailer is empty and is on a level surface.

(5) The semitrailer must be equipped with vehicle lights that comply with or exceed federal standards and reflective material approved by the Commissioner of Transportation that must be located on the semitrailer in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The semitrailer must display a conspicuous warning on the rear of the semitrailer indicating that the vehicle combination has a wide turning radius.

(8) Except as provided in subparagraph (10), the overall length of the truck tractor and semitrailer combination of vehicles traveling beyond the national network may not exceed 74 feet, including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "national network" means those highways in the State identified under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix A to Part 658.

(9) Notwithstanding section 2380, the width of the semitrailer must be 102 inches, except that the width of the rear safety bumper and appurtenances to the safety bumper may not exceed 103 inches and except that the width of a flatbed or lowboy semitrailer, measured as the distance between the outer surface edges of the semitrailer's tires, must be at least 96 inches but no more than 102 inches.

(10) For vehicles whose overall length exceeds 74 feet, including all structural parts of the vehicle, permanent or temporary, and any load carried on or in the vehicle, access is permitted to service facilities or terminals within one mile of the national network. For purposes of this subparagraph, "national network" means those highways in the State identified under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix A to Part 658.

(12) This vehicle combination may not transport cargo that has been prohibited for this vehicle combination by the Commissioner of Transportation.

(13) This paragraph does not apply to a trailer or semitrailer when transporting or returning empty from transporting a nondivisible load or object under the provisions of an overlimit permit granted by section 2382.

Nothing in this paragraph limits the authority of the department under Title 23, section 52 to adopt rules prohibiting or limiting access by semitrailers or other vehicles to a highway or portion of a highway or other segment of the transportation infrastructure in order to ensure public safety.