
To accompany the petition of Joseph R. Perini and another for legislation relative to the operation of certain unregistered motor vehicles and trailers. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE OPERATION OF CERTAIN UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAILERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 9 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as most
2 recently amended by chapter 244 of the acts of 1952, is
3 hereby further amended by striking out the first sentence
4 and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:—
5 No person shall operate, push, draw or tow any motor
6 vehicle or trailer, and the owner or custodian of such a
7 vehicle shall not permit the same to be operated, pushed,
8 drawn or towed upon or to remain upon any way except
9 as authorized by section three, unless such vehicle is
10 registered in accordance with this chapter and carries
11 its register number displayed as provided in section six,
12 and, in the case of a motor vehicle, is equipped as pro-
13 vided in section seven, except that any motor vehicle or
14 trailer may, if duly registered, be operated, pushed,
15 drawn or towed upon or remain upon any way between
16 the hours of twelve o'clock noon on December thirty-
17 first of one year and twelve o'clock noon on January
18 first of the following year if it carries its register number
19 of either year displayed as provided in section six, and
20 except that a tractor, trailer or truck may be operated
21 without such registration upon any way for a distance

22 not exceeding one half mile, if said tractor, trailer or
23 truck is used exclusively for agricultural purposes, or for
24 a distance not exceeding three hundred yards, if such
25 tractor, trailer or truck is used for industrial purposes
26 other than agricultural purposes, for the purpose of going
27 from property owned or occupied by the owner of such
28 tractor, trailer or truck to other property so owned or
29 occupied; and except that an earth-moving vehicle
30 used exclusively for the building, repair and maintenance
31 of highways which exceeds the dimensions or weight
32 limits imposed by the provisions of section nineteen of
33 this chapter and the weight limits imposed by the provi-
34 sions of section thirty of chapter eighty-five may be op-
35 erated without such registration for a distance not ex-
36 ceeding three hundred yards on any way adjacent to
37 any highway or toll road being constructed, relocated
38 or improved under contract with the commonwealth or
39 any agency or political subdivision thereof or by a pub-
40 lic instrumentality; provided, that a permit authorizing
41 the operation of such a vehicle in excess of the stated
42 weight or dimension limits has been issued by the com-
43 missioner of public works or the board or officer having
44 charge of such way. The operation of such an earth-
45 moving vehicle shall conform to any terms or conditions
46 set forth in such permit, and any person to whom any
47 such permit is issued shall provide indemnity for his
48 operation by means of a motor vehicle liability policy
49 or bond conforming to the requirements of this chapter
50 and shall furnish a certificate conforming to the require-
51 ments of section thirty-four A of this chapter with each
52 such application for a permit. Notwithstanding the
53 above provisions of this section an earth-moving vehicle
54 shall not be operated under such a permit except when
55 traffic is directed by an officer authorized to direct traffic
56 upon a way. Violation of this section shall not consti-
57 tute a defence to actions of tort for injuries suffered by
58 a person, or for the death of a person, or for injury to
59 property, unless it is shown that the person injured in
60 his person or property or killed was the owner or opera-

61 tor of the motor vehicle the operation of which was in
62 violation of this section, or unless it is shown that the
63 person so injured or killed, or the owner of the property
64 so injured, knew or had reasonable cause to know that
65 this section was being violated.

