

To accompany the petition of Joseph A. Conway for legislation to regulate the gross weight of semi-trailer units. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-One.

An Act providing for the Regulation of Weight of
Semi-trailer Units.

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 thirty of chapter eighty-five of the
2 General Laws, is hereby amended by striking
3 out section thirty and inserting in place thereof
4 the following new section to read as follows:—
5 *Section 30.* No vehicle shall travel or object
6 be moved on any public way which has any
7 device attached to or made a part of its wheels
8 or the rollers or other supports on which it rests,
9 which will injure the surface of the way; nor
10 shall any vehicle travel or object be moved on
11 any public way which with its load weighs more
12 than fourteen tons, except a vehicle which is
13 equipped with pneumatic tires, in which case
14 such vehicle may weigh fifteen tons; provided,
15 that a semi-trailer unit may weigh with its load
16 more than fourteen tons but not more than

17 twenty tons, without a permit from the board
18 or officer having charge of such way, or, in case
19 of a way determined by the department of public
20 works to be a through route, from the commis-
21 sioner of public works; provided, that a vehicle
22 on a through way provided with three axles, may
23 weigh with its load more than fourteen tons but
24 not more than twenty tons. No vehicle shall
25 travel or object be moved on any public way
26 outside of the metropolitan parks or sewerage
27 districts, the weight of which resting on the sur-
28 face of such way exceeds eight hundred pounds
29 upon any inch of the tire, roller or other support
30 without such permit. Such permit may limit
31 the time within which it shall be in force and the
32 ways which may be used and may contain any
33 provisions or conditions necessary for the pro-
34 tection of such ways from injury. If, in the
35 opinion of the board or officer having charge of
36 any public way, the travel or moving thereon
37 at any season of the year of any vehicle or object
38 which with its load weighs more than ten thou-
39 sand pounds, would cause injury to such way
40 more serious than the ordinary wear and tear
41 which the type of construction of such way is
42 designed to withstand, such board or officer may
43 by regulation prohibit such vehicle or object
44 from passing over such way during such season
45 without a permit therefor. All such regulations
46 shall, when affecting ways which are determined
47 by the department of public works to be through
48 routes, be subject to the approval of such de-

49 partment. Such regulations shall be published
50 and shall take effect as provided in case of rules
51 and orders under section twenty-two of chapter
52 forty and shall be posted in a conspicuous place
53 at both ends of the part of said way from which
54 traffic is prohibited thereby. Any person driv-
55 ing, operating or moving a vehicle or object in
56 violation of this section or of any regulation
57 adopted hereunder, or the owner thereof, shall
58 be liable in tort to the body politic or corporate
59 having charge of the way for any injury to the
60 way thereby caused. All the aforesaid limita-
61 tions as to weight shall be inclusive of the load.

