

SENATE No. 383

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, March 2, 1931.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading, to which was referred the Senate Bill further regulating the Weight and Length of Semi-trailer Units (Senate, No. 360), reports recommending that the same be amended by substituting therefor a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 383), and that, when so amended, the same will be correctly drawn.

For the committee,

NEWLAND H. HOLMES.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act further regulating the Weight and Length 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 1. Section thirty of chapter eighty-
2 five of the General Laws, as most recently
3 amended by section one of chapter three hun-
4 dred and fifty-three of the acts of nineteen
5 hundred and thirty, is hereby further amended
6 by inserting after the word "fifteen", in the
7 eighth line, the words: — , or, in case of a semi-
8 trailer unit, whether or not so equipped, more
9 than twenty, — and by striking out, in the
10 twelfth and thirteenth lines, the words "semi-
11 trailer unit or any other type of vehicle provided
12 with three axles" and inserting in place thereof
13 the words: — vehicle having three axles, other
14 than a semi-trailer unit, — so as to read as
15 follows: — *Section 30.* No vehicle shall travel
16 or object be moved, on any public way, which
17 has any device attached to or made a part of
18 its wheels or the rollers or other supports on
19 which it rests, which will injure the surface of
20 the way; nor shall any vehicle travel or object

21 be moved, on any public way, which weighs
22 more than fourteen, or, in case of a vehicle
23 equipped with pneumatic tires, more than
24 fifteen, or, in case of a semi-trailer unit, whether
25 or not so equipped, more than twenty, tons,
26 without a permit from the board or officer hav-
27 ing charge of such way, or, in case of a way
28 determined by the department of public works
29 to be a through route, from the commissioner
30 of public works; provided, that a vehicle
31 having three axles, other than a semi-trailer
32 unit, when operated on such through routes,
33 may weigh more than fourteen, or, in case of
34 a vehicle equipped with pneumatic tires, more
35 than fifteen, tons, but not more than twenty
36 tons except when operated under a permit
37 from said commissioner. No vehicle shall
38 travel or object be moved on any public
39 way, outside of the metropolitan parks or sew-
40 erage districts, the weight of which resting on
41 the surface of such way exceeds eight hundred
42 pounds upon any inch of the tire, roller or other
43 support, without such a permit. Such a permit
44 may limit the time within which it shall be in
45 force and the ways which may be used and may
46 contain any provisions or conditions necessary
47 for the protection of such ways from injury.
48 If, in the opinion of the board or officer having
49 charge of any public way, the travel or moving
50 thereon at any season of the year of any vehicle
51 or object which weighs more than ten thousand

52 pounds would cause injury to such way more
53 serious than the ordinary wear and tear which
54 the type of construction of such way is designed
55 to withstand, such board or officer may by
56 regulation prohibit such vehicle or object from
57 passing over such way during such season
58 without a permit therefor. All such regula-
59 tions shall, when affecting ways which are
60 determined by the department of public works
61 to be through routes, be subject to the approval
62 of such department. Such regulations shall
63 be published and shall take effect as provided
64 in case of rules and orders under section twenty-
65 two of chapter forty and shall be posted in a
66 conspicuous place at both ends of the part of
67 said way from which traffic is prohibited thereby.
68 Any person driving, operating or moving a
69 vehicle or object in violation of this section or
70 of any regulation adopted hereunder, or the
71 owner thereof, shall be liable in tort to the
72 body politic or corporate having charge of the
73 way for any injury to the way thereby caused.
74 All the aforesaid limitations as to weight shall
75 be inclusive of the load.

1 SECTION 2. Section nineteen of chapter
2 ninety of the General Laws, as amended by
3 section one of chapter one hundred and eighty
4 of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-
5 five, by chapter seventy-two of the acts of
6 nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, by chap-
7 ter three hundred and thirteen of the acts of

8 nineteen hundred and twenty-nine and by
9 chapter two hundred and ninety-seven of the
10 acts of nineteen hundred and thirty, is hereby
11 further amended by striking out, in the six-
12 teenth line, the word “, and” and inserting in
13 place thereof a semi-colon, — and by inserting
14 after the word “aforesaid”, in the nineteenth
15 line, the words: — ; and that, in determining
16 such length in respect to a semi-trailer unit,
17 the length of its tractor shall be excluded in
18 case such a unit, exclusive of its tractor, does
19 not, wherever used, exceed twenty-eight feet, —
20 so as to read as follows:— *Section 19.* No
21 motor vehicle or trailer, the outside width of
22 which is more than ninety-six inches or the
23 extreme over-all length of which is more than
24 twenty-eight feet, shall be operated on any
25 way without a special permit so to operate from
26 the board or officer having charge of such way
27 or, in case of a state highway or a way deter-
28 mined by the deaprtment of public works to be
29 a through route, from said department; pro-
30 vided, that such width may be exceeded by the
31 lateral projection of pneumatic tires beyond
32 the rims of the wheels for such distance on
33 either side of the vehicle or trailer as will not
34 increase its outside width above one hundred
35 and two inches; and provided, further, that
36 the extreme over-all length of such a vehicle
37 or trailer when used in localities or on ways
38 designated by the said department may exceed
39 twenty-eight feet but not thirty-three feet;

40 that, when used for the transportation of poles
41 or single units of lumber or metal, such length
42 may exceed twenty-eight feet but not sixty
43 feet, except as authorized by a special permit
44 granted as aforesaid; and that, in determining
45 such length in respect to a semi-trailer unit,
46 the length of its tractor shall be excluded in case
47 such a unit, exclusive of its tractor, does not,
48 wherever used, exceed twenty-eight feet. The
49 aforesaid dimensions of width and length shall
50 be inclusive of the load. No motor vehicle
51 shall be operated on any way to draw more than
52 one trailer or other vehicle.

