

By Mr. MacLean, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1227) of William Q. Maclean, Jr., for legislation relative to the operation of semi-trailers. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE OPERATION OF SEMI-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 1. Section one of chapter 90 of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of
3 "automobile", as appearing in the 1986 Official Edition, the
4 following definition: —

5 "B-train assembly", a rigid frame extension attached to the rear
6 frame of a first semi-trailer which allows for a fifth wheel connec-
7 tion point for a second semi-trailer in a tractor, semi-trailer and
8 semi-trailer unit.

9 Said section is further amended by inserting after the defini-
10 tion of "semi-trailer unit", as appearing in the 1986 Official Edi-
11 tion, the following definition: —

12 "Specific manufacturing facility", a facility designed and used
13 for the purpose of manufacturing complete finished projects and/
14 or incomplete components or subassemblies from raw materials
15 and/or previously assembled components or subassemblies,
16 which facility consists of at least one building structure and its
17 associated yards, parking and loading areas, and internal
18 roadways, and which facility is equipped to receive and ship cargo
19 or freight by heavy commercial vehicle in loading bay(s), dock (s)
20 or platform(s) that allow such vehicles to load and unload com-
21 pletely off the public way.

1 SECTION 2. Section 19 of chapter 90 of the General Laws,
2 as most recently amended by chapter 175 of the acts of 1988, is

3 hereby further amended by striking out the first paragraph thereof
4 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: —

5 Except as otherwise provided in section nineteen F, nineteen
6 G and nineteen H, or when a vehicle has been authorized by permit
7 to transport an irreducible load, the following provisions shall
8 apply: —

9 No motor vehicle or trailer, the outside width of which is more
10 than one hundred and two inches or the extreme overall length
11 of which is more than thirty-three feet, or in the case of a truck
12 or motor bus, forty feet, or in the case of a semi-trailer in a semi-
13 trailer unit or a trailer in a tractor-trailer unit, forty-eight feet,
14 providing that in such semi-trailer unit or tractor-trailer unit the
15 distance from the center of the foremost axle of the tractor to the
16 center of the rearmost axle of the trailer or semi-trailer shall not
17 exceed fifty-four feet, shall be operated on any way without a
18 special permit so to operate from the board or officer having
19 charge of such way or, in the case of a state highway or a way
20 determined by the department of public works to be a through
21 route, from said department. The overall length of a semi-trailer
22 unit or a tractor-trailer combination, wherever used, may exceed
23 thirty-three feet but shall not exceed sixty feet, except as author-
24 ized by a special permit granted as aforesaid. The one hundred
25 and two inch width provided in this section shall be exclusive of
26 load-induced tire bulge, rearview mirrors, turn signal lamps,
27 hand-holds for cab entry/egress and splash and spray suppres-
28 sant devices, provided such mirrors and other devises are so
29 mounted as not to constitute a hazard to pedestrains on or adja-
30 cent to any public way. Other safety devices which the depart-
31 ment determines are necessary for the safe and efficient opera-
32 tion of motor vehicles shall not be included in the calculation of
33 the one hundred and two inch width specified in this section;
34 provided, however, that such other safety devices may be so
35 mounted and so extend beyond the permitted width only in such
36 manner and to such extent as may be determined by the depart-
37 ment, but in no event shall such safety devices extend more than
38 three inches beyond the maximum vehicle width on each side.
39 Notwithstanding the previous provisions of this section, the
40 combined overall length of a pole dolly or pole dickey and the
41 load being carried thereon may, while being used for the

42 transportation of poles or single units of lumber or metal, exceed
 43 forty-eight feet, but the overall length when considered in
 44 combination with the motor vehicle accompanying it shall not
 45 exceed sixty-five feet or, in the case of an electric company as
 46 defined in chapter one hundred and sixty-four, seventy feet,
 47 without a special permit as provided for in this paragraph.

1 SECTION 3. Section 19F of chapter 90 of the General Laws
 2 is hereby amended by striking out the first two paragraphs thereof,
 3 as appearing in the 1986 Official Edition, and inserting in place
 4 thereof the following two paragraphs: —

5 Notwithstanding the provisions of section nineteen C or any
 6 other provision of law to the contrary, semi-trailers of forty-eight
 7 feet in length when operating in semi-trailer units, tandem units,
 8 and tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combinations connected by a
 9 B-train assembly may operate on the National Network as here-
 10 inafter defined. The National Network shall consist of the follow-
 11 ing highways; provided, however, that on such highways as are
 12 designated "National Network — Restricted Travel Hours:" the
 13 said semi-trailers of forty-eight feet in length when operating in
 14 semi-trailer units of greater than sixty feet overall length, the said
 15 tandem units and the said tractor semitrailer-semitrailer
 16 combinations may operate only between the hours of seven
 17 o'clock P.M. and seven o'clock A.M.:

National Network — Unrestricted Travel Hours

<u>Route</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1-86	Connecticut State Line	1-90
1-90	New York State Line	Cambridge Street Boston (Allston)
1-91	Connecticut State Line	Vermont State Line
1-93	1-95 in Reading	New Hampshire State Line
1-95	Rhode Island State Line	1-93 in Canton
1-95	Route 128 in Peabody	New Hampshire State Line
1-190	1-290 in Worcester	Route 2 in Leominster
1-195	Rhode Island State Line	1-495 in Wareham
1-290	1-90 in Auburn	1-495 in Marlborough
1-291	1-91 in Springfield	1-90 in Chicopee

I-295	Rhode Island State Line	I-95 in Attleboro
I-395	Connecticut State Line	I-90 in Auburn
I-495	I-195 in Wareham	I-95 in Salisbury
Route 2	I-190 in Leominster	I-495 in Littleton
Route 3	I-95 in Burlington	New Hampshire State Line
Route 12	I-90 in Auburn	I-395 in Auburn
Route 24	I-195 in Fall River	I-93 in Randolph
Route 140	I-195 in New Bedford	State Route 24 in Taunton

National Network — Restricted Travel Hours

<u>Route</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
I-93	I-95 in Canton	Route 24 in Randolph
I-95	I-93 in Canton	Route 128 in Peabody

18 No semi-trailer or trailer operating in a tandem unit or in a tractor
 19 semitrailer-semitrailer combination connected by a B-train
 20 assembly as authorized by this section shall exceed twenty-eight
 21 feet in length, or twenty-eight and one-half feet if grandfathered,
 22 including load and load-holding devices, when operating on the
 23 National Network and routes of reasonable access designated by
 24 the department as provided in section nineteen G. No overall
 25 length limitations shall apply to motor vehicles comprised of semi-
 26 trailers or trailers of lengths specified above operating in a semi-
 27 trailer unit, a tandem unit or a tractor semitrailer-semitrailer com-
 28 bination on the National Network and routes of reasonable access
 29 designated by the department.

1 SECTION .4. Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing
 2 in the 1986 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after
 3 section 19G the following section: —

4 Section 19H. Notwithstanding the provisions of section
 5 nineteen or any other provisions of law to the contrary, semi-
 6 trailers of forty-eight feet in length when operating in semi-trailer
 7 units of greater than sixty foot overall length and tandem units,
 8 whose semi-trailers or trailers shall not exceed twenty-eight feet
 9 in length, or twenty-eight and one half feet in length if grand-
 10 fathered, may operate on public ways in the Commonwealth, in
 11 addition to the ways included in the National Network, as defined

12 in section nineteen F, when traveling between specific manufactur-
13 ing facilities and the National Network pursuant to a special
14 permit as hereinafter provided. The owner or operator of a specific
15 manufacturing facility may apply to the department, and the
16 department may issue a special permit designating an approved
17 route of travel to such specific manufacturing facility for use by
18 said semi-trailers of forty-eight feet in length and said tandem
19 units. Such permits may be subject to such conditions as the
20 department may determine are necessary for promoting public
21 safety and convenience. The department may, from time to time,
22 revoke such permit. In determining whether or not a proposed
23 route to a specific manufacturing facility should be so approved,
24 the department shall consider the proximity of the facility to major
25 limited access highway, the physical dimensions and safety
26 characteristics of the forty-eight foot semi-trailer units and
27 tandem units as they related to the ways included in the proposed
28 route, the current and projected traffic volumes and capacities of
29 such ways, and such other criteria as the department may
30 determine necessary for promoting the public safety and
31 convenience. The department may promulgate rules and
32 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter thirty A
33 to carry out the provisions of this section.



