

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1516

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## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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SENATE, March 1, 1990.

The committee on Public Safety, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1039) of William Q. MacLean, Jr., for legislation relative to the operation of semi-trailers; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1045) of Mary L. Padula, John P. Burke and the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, by Richard E. Mastrangelo, vice president and general counsel, for legislation relative to the operation of semi-trailers, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1516).

For the committee,

THOMAS P. WHITE.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

## 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 1988 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  
7 connection point for a second semi-trailer which allows for a fifth  
8 wheel connection point for a second semi-trailer in a tractor  
9 semitrailer-semitrailer unit.

1 SECTION 2. Section one of chapter 90 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “semi-trailer  
3 unit”, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, the following  
4 definition: —

5 “Specific manufacturing facility”, a facility designed and used  
6 for the purpose of manufacturing complete finished projects and/  
7 or incomplete components or subassemblies from raw materials  
8 and/or previously assembled components or subassemblies,  
9 which facility consists of at least one building structure and its  
10 associated yards, parking and loading areas, and internal  
11 roadways, and which facility is equipped to receive and ship cargo  
12 or freight by heavy commercial vehicle in loading bay(s), dock(s)  
13 or platform(s) that allow such vehicle to load and unload  
14 completely off the public way.

1 SECTION 3. Section one of chapter 90 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by striking the definition of “Automobile  
3 transporter”, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, and  
4 inserting in place thereof the following definition: —

5 “Automobile transporter”, any vehicle combination, including  
6 a stinger-steered automobile transporter and a low-boy  
7 automobile transporter, designed and used specifically for the  
8 transport of assembled (capable of being driven) highway vehicles.  
9 The highway vehicles being transported may be carried on the  
10 power unit on an over-cab rack and behind the car and on the  
11 semi-trailer or low-boy.

1 SECTION 4. Section one of chapter 90 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Specific  
3 business locations”, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, the  
4 following definition: —

5 “Stinger-steered automobile transporter”, an automobile  
6 transporter configured as a semi-trailer combination wherein the  
7 fifth wheel is located on a drop frame located behind and below  
8 the rear-most axle of the power unit.

1 SECTION 5. Section one of chapter 90 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Intersecting  
3 way”, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, the following  
4 definition: —

5 “Low-boy automobile transporter”, a semi-trailer unit in which  
6 the trailer is designed and used specifically for the transport of  
7 assembled (capable of being driven) highway vehicles. The top  
8 surface of the deck platform of such semi-trailer shall not be more  
9 than thirty-six inches above the surface on which the wheels of  
10 the vehicle rest.

1 SECTION 6. 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 G  
6 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 stinger-steered  
13 automobile transporter, sixty-five feet not including load  
14 overhang which shall not exceed three feet beyond the foremost  
15 part of the front transporting vehicle or more than four feet  
16 beyond the rear bed of the body, or in the case of a semi-trailer  
17 unit or a trailer in a tractor-trailer unit, forty-eight feet, providing  
18 that in such semi-trailer unit or tractor-trailer unit the distance  
19 from the center of the foremost axle of the tractor to the center  
20 of the rearmost axle of the trailer or semi-trailer shall not exceed  
21 fifty-four feet, shall be operated on any way without a special  
22 permit so to operate from the board or officer having charge of  
23 such way or, in the case of the state highway or a way determined  
24 by the department of public works to be a through route, from  
25 said department. The overall length of a semi-trailer unit or a  
26 tractor-trailer combination, wherever used, may exceed thirty-  
27 three feet but shall not exceed sixty feet, except as otherwise  
28 specifically authorized by this section or authorized by a special  
29 permit granted as aforesaid. The one hundred and two inch width  
30 provided in this section shall be exclusive of load-induced tire  
31 bulge, rearview mirrors, turn signal lamps, hand-holds for cab  
32 entry/egress and splash and spray suppressant devices, provided  
33 such mirrors and other devices are so mounted as not to constitute  
34 a hazard to pedestrians on or adjacent to any public way. Other  
35 safety devices which the department determines are necessary for  
36 the safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles shall not be  
37 included in the calculation of the one hundred and two inch width  
38 specified in this section; provided, however, that such other safety  
39 devices may be so mounted and so extend beyond the permitted  
40 width only in such manner and to such extent as may be  
41 determined by the department, but in no event shall such safety  
42 devices extend more than three inches beyond the maximum  
43 vehicle width on each side. Notwithstanding the previous  
44 provisions of this section, the combined overall length of a pole  
45 dolly or pole dickey and the load being carried thereon may, while  
46 being used for the transportation of poles or single units of lumber  
47 or metal, exceed forty-eight feet, but the overall length when  
48 considered in combination with the motor vehicle accompanying  
49 it shall not exceed sixty-five feet or, in the case of an electric  
50 company as defined in chapter one hundred and sixty-four,

51 seventy feet, without a special permit as provided for in this  
52 paragraph.

1 SECTION 7. 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 1988 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, or twenty-eight  
8 foot tandem units, and tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combina-  
9 tions connected by a B-train assembly that do not exceed the  
10 length limitation as set forth in the second paragraph of this  
11 section may operate on the National Network as hereinafter  
12 defined. The National Network shall consist of the following  
13 highways; provided, however, that on such highways as are  
14 designated "National Network — Restricted Travel Hours:" the  
15 said semi-trailers of forty-eight feet in length when operating in  
16 semi-trailer units of greater than sixty feet overall length, the said  
17 tandem units and the said tractor semitrailer-semitrailer  
18 combinations may operate only between the hours of seven  
19 o'clock P.M. and seven o'clock A.M.: —

**NATIONAL NETWORK —  
UNRESTRICTED TRAVEL HOURS**

<b>ROUTE</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
I-86	Connecticut State Line	I-90
I-90	New York State Line	Cambridge Street Boston (Allston)
I-91	Connecticut State Line	Vermont State Line
I-93	I-95 in Reading	New Hampshire State Line
I-95	Rhode Island State Line	I-93 in Canton
I-95	Route 128 in Peabody	New Hampshire State Line

ROUTE	FROM	TO
I-190	I-290 in Worcester	Route 2 in Leominster
I-195	Rhode Island State Line	I-495 in Wareham
I-290	I-90 in Auburn	I-495 in Marlborough
I-291	I-91 in Springfield	I-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-90 in Leominster	I-495 in Littleton
Route 3	I-190 in Leominster	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
I-93	I-95 in Canton	Route 24 in Randolph
I-95	I-93 in Canton	Route 128 in Peabody

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

29 trailer unit, a tandem unit or a tractor semitrailer-semitrailer  
30 combination on the National Network and routes of reasonable  
31 access designated by the department.

1 SECTION 8. Section 19F of chapter 90 of the General Laws,  
2 is hereby amended by adding after the word “department”, as  
3 appearing in line 20 of the 1988 Official Edition, the following  
4 sentence: —

5 Any trailer or semi-trailer of such dimensions as those that were  
6 in actual and lawful use in the Commonwealth on December 1,  
7 1982, may be operated on the National Network and on routes  
8 of reasonable access designed by the department.

1 SECTION 9. Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section 19G the following section: —

4 Section 19H. Notwithstanding the provisions of sec-  
5 tion nineteen or any other provisions of law to the contrary, semi-  
6 trailers of forty-eight feet in length when operating in semi-trailers  
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  
10 grandfathered, may operate on public ways in the Common-  
11 wealth, in addition to the ways included in the National Network,  
12 as defined in section nineteen F, when traveling between specific  
13 manufacturing facilities and the National Network pursuant to  
14 a special permit as hereinafter provided. The owner or operator  
15 of a specific manufacturing facility may apply to the department,  
16 and the department may issue a special permit designating an  
17 approved route of travel to such specific manufacturing facility  
18 for use by said semi-trailers of forty-eight feet in length and said  
19 tandem units. Such permits may be subject to such conditions as  
20 the 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 highways, the physical dimensions and safety  
26 characteristics of the forty-eight foot semi-trailer units and

27 tandem units as they related to the way 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.