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An Act Regarding When an Overweight Truck May Be Required To Unload

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2358, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6. Unloading excess. When an officer determines that a vehicle exceeds the permitted weight, the officer must require the operator to stop the vehicle in a designated place.

The vehicle may not proceed until the operator has reduced the weight to permitted limits; except that if the excess weight does not exceed 2,000 pounds or an officer determines that a combination vehicle consisting of a 3-axle truck tractor with a tri-axle semitrailer exceeds the permitted gross vehicle weight allowed under section 2354 by 10% or less, an officer may permit the vehicle to proceed without unloading. The officer may summons the owner or driver of that vehicle.

An officer, the State or a political subdivision is not responsible for loss or damage to a vehicle or its contents as a result of unloading.

SUMMARY

The bill allows a state police officer to permit an overweight combination vehicle consisting of a 3-axle truck tractor with a tri-axle semitrailer to proceed without unloading if the vehicle does not exceed by more than 10% the gross vehicle weight allowed in law.