



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1025

H.P. 661

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

An Act to Improve Maine's Economy by Changing the Hours of Operation for Oversize Loads

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and
Representatives: CYRWAY of Albion, WHITE of Guilford.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation allows for nondivisible objects to be transported 1/2 hour
4 before sunrise to 10 p.m. on any day, including a holiday, other than Sunday and directs
5 the Secretary of State to allow long-term permits for vehicles up to 12 feet in width; and

6 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect as soon as possible to allow for the most
7 efficient transport of goods in and out of the State in order to improve the State's economy;
8 and

9 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore,

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

14 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2382, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and
15 affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

16 **1. Overlimit movement permits issued by State.** The Secretary of State, acting
17 under guidelines and advice of the Commissioner of Transportation, may grant permits to
18 move nondivisible objects having a length, width, height or weight greater than specified
19 in this Title over a way or bridge maintained by the Department of Transportation. Permits
20 issued under this subsection must allow the movement of the nondivisible objects from 1/2
21 hour before sunrise to 10 p.m. on any day, including a holiday, other than Sunday.

22 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2382, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §73
23 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is further amended to read:

24 **3. County and municipal permits.** A county commissioner or municipal officer may
25 grant a permit, for a reasonable fee, for travel over a way or bridge maintained by that
26 county or municipality. Permits issued under this subsection must allow the travel from 1/2
27 hour before sunrise to 10 p.m. on any day, including a holiday, other than Sunday.

28 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2382, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 335, §9, is further
29 amended to read:

30 **5. Long-term permits.** The Secretary of State may grant permits for up to one year
31 for trucks, truck tractors, semitrailers, heavy duty recovery vehicles and Class A special
32 mobile equipment. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, subsection 2, paragraph A, the
33 Secretary of State, in consultation with the Commissioner of Transportation, shall establish
34 the permit terms and limitations and fee schedule by rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this
35 subsection must provide for permits to be issued to vehicles up to 12 feet in width and must
36 allow travel by any permitted vehicle between 1/2 hour before sunrise and 10 p.m. on any
37 day, including a holiday, other than Sunday. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
38 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

39 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
40 takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This bill directs the Secretary of State to adopt rules regarding overlimit movement permits to allow movement on any day of the week, including a holiday, other than Sunday. The bill directs the Secretary of State to adopt rules allowing for permitted overlimit moves 1/2 hour before sunrise until 10 p.m. The bill directs the Secretary of State to adopt rules to allow vehicles up to 12 feet in width to be issued long-term permits.