

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Allow the Use of Mini-trucks on Public Ways**

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

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§33-A** is enacted to read:

**33-A. Mini-truck.** "Mini-truck" means a 4-wheeled motor vehicle that:

- A. Is able to attain a speed of at least 25 miles per hour but not more than 60 miles per hour;
- B. Does not exceed 2,000 pounds in unloaded weight;
- C. Is powered by a 2-cylinder, 3-cylinder or 4-cylinder gasoline or electric engine; and
- D. Meets or exceeds the motor vehicle inspection requirements of chapter 15, subchapter 1.

"Mini-truck" does not include a low-speed vehicle.

**Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §102, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

**3. Limited operation of mini-trucks; beginning October 1, 2011.** The registration and operation of mini-trucks in accordance with section 501, subsection 13 and section 2093 are authorized beginning October 1, 2011. A municipality may prohibit the use of mini-trucks by municipal ordinance or restrict the use of mini-trucks in accordance with section 2093, subsection 2.

**Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

**13. Mini-trucks.** The Secretary of State may issue a registration for a mini-truck upon application and payment of an annual fee of \$35. The registrant must provide a certificate of title required by section 651, proof of financial responsibility required by section 1601 and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482. A mini-truck registered under this section is issued a registration plate with the word "mini-truck" instead of "Vacationland." The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate for a 60-day period.

**Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §652, sub-§13**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 435, §10, is further amended to read:

**13. Certain automobiles, commercial vehicles and vehicles.** Automobiles and all over-the-road commercial vehicles and mini-trucks with a model year prior to 1995, except when the Secretary of State determines it is in the best interest of the State and the applicant to issue a title to a vehicle with a model year prior to 1995;

**Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §2093** is enacted to read:

**§ 2093. Operation of mini-trucks**

A person operating a mini-truck on a public way shall comply with the provisions of this chapter as they apply to the operator of an automobile and with this section.

**1. License required.** A person operating a mini-truck must possess a valid Class A, Class B or Class C driver's license pursuant to section 1252.

**2. Distance and road restrictions.** A mini-truck may be operated only on a highway, road or street within 100 miles of the address at which the vehicle is registered. The department may prohibit the operation of a mini-truck on any highway or segment of highway under its jurisdiction if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of public safety. A municipality may prohibit the operation of a mini-truck on any road under its jurisdiction if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of public safety.

**3. Violation.** A person who operates a mini-truck in violation of subsection 2 commits a traffic infraction.

**4. Rulemaking.** The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Commissioner of Transportation and the Commissioner of Public Safety, may adopt routine technical rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to implement this section, monitor the registration and use of mini-trucks and provide for the safe operation of mini-trucks.

## SUMMARY

This bill permits mini-trucks to be operated on public ways, but only within 100 miles of the address at which the mini-truck is registered. The mini-truck, a 4-wheeled motor vehicle with a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour and a maximum weight of 2,000 pounds, must be registered and meet the same inspection standards as other motor vehicles in order to be operated on a public way.