

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 589 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, TOMLINSON, EICHELBERGER, GORDNER, YAW, VOGEL, VULAKOVICH, SCARNATI, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, BARTOLOTTA, WHITE, STEFANO, MARTIN, WARD, WAGNER, AUMENT, MCGARRIGLE AND SCAVELLO, APRIL 13, 2017

SENATOR RAFFERTY, TRANSPORTATION, AS AMENDED, APRIL 25, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in fees, further providing for annual hauling <--
3 permits; and, in size, weight and load, further providing for
4 FIRE APPARATUS, FOR LENGTH OF VEHICLES AND FOR maximum gross <--
5 weight of vehicles and for conditions of permits and security <--
6 for damages and providing for permit for movement of freight
7 via natural gas vehicles.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1943 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania <--
11 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:
12 § 1943. Annual hauling permits.

13 * * *

14 (s) Natural gas vehicles. The annual fee for movement of
15 freight via natural gas vehicles, as provided for in section
16 4979.7 (relating to permit for movement of freight via natural
17 gas vehicles) shall be \$500.

18 SECTION 1. SECTIONS 4906 AND 4923(A) (2), (B.1) AND (C) OF <--
19 TITLE 75 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES ARE AMENDED

1 TO READ:

2 § 4906. FIRE APPARATUS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

3 THIS CHAPTER DOES NOT APPLY TO FIRE APPARATUS BEING OPERATED
4 ON THE HIGHWAY UNLESS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED OTHERWISE. THE
5 WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CHAPTER DO NOT APPLY TO EMERGENCY
6 VEHICLES AS DEFINED IN 23 U.S.C. § 127(R) (2) (RELATING TO
7 VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITATIONS-INTERSTATE SYSTEM). IN LIEU OF THE
8 WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CHAPTER, THE REQUIREMENTS OF 23
9 U.S.C. § 127(R) (1) SHALL APPLY TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

10 § 4923. LENGTH OF VEHICLES.

11 (A) MOTOR VEHICLES.--

12 * * *

13 (2) PARAGRAPH (1) DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

14 (I) A MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPPED WITH A BOOM OR BOOMLIKE
15 DEVICE IF THE VEHICLE DOES NOT EXCEED 55 FEET.

16 (II) A BUS, SCHOOL BUS OR MOTOR HOME WHICH DOES NOT
17 EXCEED 45 FEET.

18 (III) AN ARTICULATED BUS WHICH DOES NOT EXCEED 63
19 FEET.

20 (IV) AN AUTOMOBILE OR BOAT TRANSPORTER WHICH DOES
21 NOT EXCEED 45 FEET, EXCLUSIVE OF AN OVERHANG OF NOT MORE
22 THAN THREE FEET ON THE FRONT AND FOUR FEET ON THE REAR.
23 AN AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTER SHALL NOT BE PROHIBITED FROM
24 THE TRANSPORT OF CARGO OR GENERAL FREIGHT ON A BACKHAUL
25 IF THE AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTER COMPLIES WITH THE WEIGHT
26 LIMITATIONS FOR A TRUCK TRACTOR AND SEMITRAILER
27 COMBINATION.

28 (B.1) COMBINATIONS.--

29 (1) THE LENGTH OF A SINGLE TRAILER BEING TOWED BY A
30 TRUCK TRACTOR SHALL NOT EXCEED 53 FEET PROVIDED THE DISTANCE

1 BETWEEN THE KINGPIN AND THE CENTER LINE OF THE REAR AXLE OR
2 REAR AXLE GROUP DOES NOT EXCEED 41 FEET OR, IN THE CASE OF A
3 TRAILER USED EXCLUSIVELY OR PRIMARILY TO TRANSPORT VEHICLES
4 IN CONNECTION WITH MOTOR SPORTS COMPETITION EVENTS, DOES NOT
5 EXCEED 46 FEET.

6 (2) FOR A DOUBLE TRAILER, THE LENGTH OF EACH TRAILER
7 BEING TOWED IN COMBINATION BY A TRUCK TRACTOR SHALL NOT
8 EXCEED 28 1/2 FEET.

9 (3) THE OVERALL LENGTH OF THE COMBINATION OF A TRUCK
10 TRACTOR WITH A CONVENTIONAL FIFTH WHEEL AND AN AUTO OR BOAT
11 TRANSPORTER SHALL NOT EXCEED 65 FEET, EXCLUSIVE OF AN
12 OVERHANG OF NOT MORE THAN THREE FEET ON THE FRONT AND FOUR
13 FEET ON THE REAR OF THE COMBINATION.

14 (4) THE OVERALL LENGTH OF A STINGER-STEERED AUTO OR BOAT
15 TRANSPORTER COMBINATION SHALL NOT EXCEED [75] 80 FEET,
16 EXCLUSIVE OF AN OVERHANG OF NOT MORE THAN [THREE] FOUR FEET
17 ON THE FRONT AND [FOUR] SIX FEET ON THE REAR OF THE
18 COMBINATION. A STINGER-STEERED AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTER SHALL
19 NOT BE PROHIBITED FROM THE TRANSPORT OF CARGO OR GENERAL
20 FREIGHT ON A BACKHAUL IF THE STINGER-STEERED AUTOMOBILE
21 TRANSPORTER COMPLIES WITH THE WEIGHT LIMITATIONS FOR A TRUCK
22 TRACTOR AND SEMITRAILER COMBINATION.

23 (5) THE OVERALL LENGTH OF A SADDLE-MOUNT COMBINATION
24 SHALL NOT EXCEED 75 FEET.

25 (6) THE OVERALL LENGTH OF A MAXI-CUBE COMBINATION SHALL
26 NOT EXCEED 65 FEET.

27 (7) A COMBINATION CONSISTING OF ANY TOW TRUCK TOWING A
28 DISABLED MOTOR VEHICLE TO A PLACE OF REPAIRS OR OTHER PLACE
29 OF SAFETY.

30 (8) A COMBINATION TRANSPORTING ARTICLES THAT,

1 THEMSELVES, DO NOT EXCEED 70 FEET IN LENGTH AND ARE
2 NONDIVISIBLE AS TO LENGTH.

3 (9) THE OVERALL LENGTH OF A TOWAWAY TRAILER TRANSPORTER
4 COMBINATION SHALL NOT EXCEED 82 FEET.

5 (C) DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING
6 WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS
7 SUBSECTION:

8 "AUTOMOBILE OR BOAT TRANSPORTER." A TRUCK OF A TOTAL LENGTH
9 NOT GREATER THAN 45 FEET, EXCLUSIVE OF AN OVERHANG OF NOT MORE
10 THAN THREE FEET ON THE FRONT AND FOUR FEET ON THE REAR OF THE
11 VEHICLE CONFIGURED BY THE MANUFACTURER TO HAUL EITHER
12 AUTOMOBILES, LIGHT TRUCKS OR BOATS.

13 "TOWAWAY TRAILER TRANSPORTER COMBINATION." AS FOLLOWS:

14 (1) A COMBINATION OF VEHICLES CONSISTING OF A TRAILER
15 TRANSPORTER TOWING UNIT AND TWO TRAILERS OR SEMITRAILERS WITH
16 A TOTAL WEIGHT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 26,000 POUNDS; AND

17 (2) THE TRAILERS OR SEMITRAILERS CARRY NO PROPERTY AND
18 CONSTITUTE INVENTORY PROPERTY OF A MANUFACTURER, DISTRIBUTOR
19 OR DEALER OF THE TRAILERS OR SEMITRAILERS.

20 "TRAILER TRANSPORTER TOWING UNIT." A POWER UNIT THAT IS NOT
21 USED TO CARRY PROPERTY WHEN OPERATING IN A TOWAWAY TRAILER
22 TRANSPORTER COMBINATION.

23 Section 2. Section 4941(a) of Title 75 is amended and the
24 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

25 § 4941. Maximum gross weight of vehicles.

26 (a) General rule.--[No] Except as provided for in subsection
27 (d), no vehicle shall, when operated upon a highway, have a
28 gross weight exceeding 80,000 pounds, and no combination driven
29 upon a highway shall have a gross weight exceeding 80,000
30 pounds, or the applicable weight set as forth in subsection (b)

1 or (c), whichever is less.

2 * * *

3 (d) Natural gas vehicles.--

4 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
5 vehicle that is operated by an engine fueled primarily by
6 compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the gross
7 vehicle weight limits imposed under this section by an
8 amount, not to exceed a maximum of 2,000 pounds, that is
9 equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle
10 attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system
11 carried by the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel
12 tank and fueling system.

13 (2) The weight exemption provided for under this
14 subsection shall apply to all STATE HIGHWAYS AND interstate <--
15 highways as provided by the exemption permitted under 23
16 U.S.C. § 127 (relating to vehicle weight limitations--
17 Interstate System).

18 ~~Section 3 4. Section 4962(f) of Title 75 is amended to read: <--~~
19 ~~§ 4962. Conditions of permits and security for damages.~~

20 * * *

21 ~~(f) When loads permitted. Only vehicles and combinations~~
22 ~~permitted under the following provisions shall be authorized to~~
23 ~~carry or haul loads while operating under the permit:~~

24 ~~Section 4961(a)(2), (3) and (6) (relating to authority to~~
25 ~~issue permits).~~

26 ~~Section 4965 (relating to single permits for multiple~~
27 ~~highway crossings).~~

28 ~~Section 4968 (relating to permit for movement during~~
29 ~~course of manufacture).~~

30 ~~Section 4974 (relating to permit for movement of~~

1 ~~containerized cargo).~~

2 ~~Section 4975 (relating to permit for movement of special~~
3 ~~mobile equipment).~~

4 ~~Section 4976 (relating to permit for movement of domestic~~
5 ~~animal feed).~~

6 ~~Section 4976.1 (relating to permit for movement of live~~
7 ~~domestic animals).~~

8 ~~Section 4976.2 (relating to permit for movement of eggs).~~

9 ~~Section 4977 (relating to permit for movement of wooden~~
10 ~~structures).~~

11 ~~Section 4978 (relating to permit for movement of building~~
12 ~~structural components).~~

13 ~~Section 4979 (relating to permit for movement of~~
14 ~~particleboard or fiberboard used in the manufacture of ready~~
15 ~~to assemble furniture).~~

16 ~~Section 4979.1 (relating to permit for movement of bulk~~
17 ~~refined oil).~~

18 ~~Section 4979.2 (relating to permit for movement of waste~~
19 ~~coal and beneficial combustion ash).~~

20 ~~Section 4979.3 (relating to permit for movement of float~~
21 ~~glass or flat glass for use in construction and other end~~
22 ~~uses).~~

23 ~~Section 4979.4 (relating to permit for movement of self~~
24 ~~propelled cranes).~~

25 ~~Section 4979.5 (relating to permit for movement of~~
26 ~~nonhazardous liquid glue).~~

27 ~~Section 4979.6 (relating to permit for movement of waste~~
28 ~~tires).~~

29 ~~Section 4979.7 (relating to permit for movement of~~
30 ~~freight via natural gas vehicles).~~

1 ~~***~~

2 ~~Section 4 5. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to~~
3 ~~read:~~

4 ~~§ 4979.7. Permit for movement of freight via natural gas~~
5 ~~vehicles.~~

6 ~~An annual permit may be issued authorizing the movement on~~
7 ~~specified highways of freight as allowed by law by a vehicle~~
8 ~~powered by natural gas, be it compressed or liquefied, which~~
9 ~~exceeds the maximum vehicle gross weight specified in section~~
10 ~~4941 (relating to maximum gross weight of vehicles). The weight~~
11 ~~of any vehicle permitted under this section may not exceed~~
12 ~~82,000 pounds overall gross weight and 21,000 pounds on any~~
13 ~~steering axle.~~

14 Section 5 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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