

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

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, MAY 24, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, IN GENERAL PROVISIONS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE <--
3 DEFINITION OF "STINGER-STEERED AUTOMOBILE" OR "BOAT
4 TRANSPORTER"; AND, in size, weight and load, further
5 providing for fire apparatus, for length of vehicles and for
6 maximum gross weight of vehicles.

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

9 Section 1. Sections 4906 and 4923(a)(2), (b.1) and (c) of <--
10 Title 75 OF THE Pennsylvania CONSOLIDATED STATUTES are amended
11 to read:

12 SECTION 1. THE DEFINITION OF "STINGER-STEERED AUTOMOBILE" OR <--
13 "BOAT TRANSPORTER" IN SECTION 102 OF TITLE 75 OF THE
14 PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES IS AMENDED TO READ:

15 § 102. DEFINITIONS.

16 SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS CONTAINED IN SUBSEQUENT
17 PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC
18 PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN
19 USED IN THIS TITLE SHALL HAVE, UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY

1 INDICATES OTHERWISE, THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION:

2 * * *

3 "STINGER-STEERED AUTOMOBILE" OR "BOAT TRANSPORTER." A TRUCK
4 TRACTOR-SEMITRAILER COMBINATION [OF A TOTAL LENGTH NOT GREATER
5 THAN 75 FEET EXCLUSIVE OF AN OVERHANG OF NOT MORE THAN THREE
6 FEET ON THE FRONT AND FOUR FEET ON THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE
7 CONFIGURED AS A SEMITRAILER COMBINATION] WHEREIN THE FIFTH WHEEL
8 IS LOCATED ON A DROP FRAME LOCATED BEHIND AND BELOW THE REARMOST
9 AXLE OF THE POWER UNIT.

10 * * *

11 SECTION 2. SECTIONS 4906 AND 4923(A)(2), (B.1) AND (C) OF
12 TITLE 75 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

13 § 4906. Fire apparatus and emergency vehicles.

14 This chapter does not apply to fire apparatus being operated
15 on the highway unless specifically provided otherwise. The
16 weight requirements of this chapter do not apply to emergency
17 vehicles as defined in 23 U.S.C. § 127(r)(2) (relating to
18 vehicle weight limitations-Interstate System). In lieu of the
19 weight requirements of this chapter, the requirements of 23
20 U.S.C. § 127(r)(1) shall apply to emergency vehicles.

21 § 4923. Length of vehicles.

22 (a) Motor vehicles.--

23 * * *

24 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to the following:

25 (i) A motor vehicle equipped with a boom or boomlike
26 device if the vehicle does not exceed 55 feet.

27 (ii) A bus, school bus or motor home which does not
28 exceed 45 feet.

29 (iii) An articulated bus which does not exceed 63
30 feet.

1 (iv) An automobile or boat transporter which does
2 not exceed 45 feet, exclusive of an overhang of not more
3 than three feet on the front and four feet on the rear.
4 An automobile transporter shall not be prohibited from
5 the transport of cargo or general freight on a backhaul
6 if the automobile transporter complies with the weight
7 limitations for a ~~truck tractor and semitrailer~~ <--
8 combination MOTOR VEHICLE. <--

9 (b.1) Combinations.--

10 (1) The length of a single trailer being towed by a
11 truck tractor shall not exceed 53 feet provided the distance
12 between the kingpin and the center line of the rear axle or
13 rear axle group does not exceed 41 feet or, in the case of a
14 trailer used exclusively or primarily to transport vehicles
15 in connection with motor sports competition events, does not
16 exceed 46 feet.

17 (2) For a double trailer, the length of each trailer
18 being towed in combination by a truck tractor shall not
19 exceed 28 1/2 feet.

20 (3) The overall length of the combination of a truck
21 tractor with a conventional fifth wheel and an auto or boat
22 transporter shall not exceed 65 feet, exclusive of an
23 overhang of not more than three feet on the front and four
24 feet on the rear of the combination.

25 (4) The overall length of a stinger-steered auto or boat
26 transporter combination shall not exceed [75] 80 feet,
27 exclusive of an overhang of not more than [three] four feet
28 on the front and [four] six feet on the rear of the
29 combination. A stinger-steered automobile transporter shall
30 not be prohibited from the transport of cargo or general

1 freight on a backhaul if the stinger-steered automobile
2 transporter complies with the weight limitations for a truck
3 tractor and semitrailer combination.

4 (5) The overall length of a saddle-mount combination
5 shall not exceed 75 feet.

6 (6) The overall length of a maxi-cube combination shall
7 not exceed 65 feet.

8 (7) A combination consisting of any tow truck towing a
9 disabled motor vehicle to a place of repairs or other place
10 of safety.

11 (8) A combination transporting articles that,
12 themselves, do not exceed 70 feet in length and are
13 nondivisible as to length.

14 (9) The overall length of a towaway trailer transporter
15 combination shall not exceed 82 feet.

16 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
17 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
18 subsection:

19 "Automobile or boat transporter." A truck of a total length
20 not greater than 45 feet, exclusive of an overhang of not more
21 than three feet on the front and four feet on the rear of the
22 vehicle configured by the manufacturer to haul either
23 automobiles, light trucks or boats.

24 "Towaway trailer transporter combination." As follows:

25 (1) a combination of vehicles consisting of a trailer
26 transporter towing unit and two trailers or semitrailers with
27 a total weight that does not exceed 26,000 pounds; and

28 (2) the trailers or semitrailers carry no property and
29 constitute inventory property of a manufacturer, distributor
30 or dealer of the trailers or semitrailers.

1 "Trailer transporter towing unit." A power unit that is not
2 used to carry property when operating in a towaway trailer
3 transporter combination.

4 Section 2 3. Section 4941(a) of Title 75 is amended and the <--
5 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

6 § 4941. Maximum gross weight of vehicles.

7 (a) General rule.--[No] Except as provided for in subsection
8 (d), no vehicle shall, when operated upon a highway, have a
9 gross weight exceeding 80,000 pounds, and no combination driven
10 upon a highway shall have a gross weight exceeding 80,000
11 pounds, or the applicable weight set as forth in subsection (b)
12 or (c), whichever is less.

13 * * *

14 (d) Natural gas vehicles.--

15 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
16 vehicle that is operated by an engine fueled primarily by
17 compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the gross
18 vehicle weight limits imposed under this section by an
19 amount, not to exceed a maximum of 2,000 pounds, that is
20 equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle
21 attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system
22 carried by the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel
23 tank and fueling system.

24 (2) The weight exemption provided for under this
25 subsection shall apply to all State highways and interstate
26 highways as provided by the exemption permitted under 23
27 U.S.C. § 127 (relating to vehicle weight limitations--
28 Interstate System).

29 Section 3 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days. <--