

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1674 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY SEIP, HICKERNELL, BRENNAN, CUTLER, FREEMAN,  
GOODMAN, HARHAI, JOHNSON, PETRARCA, PHILLIPS, REICHLEY, ROAE,  
SAYLOR, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, KESSLER, CLYMER, MOUL, SWANGER,  
GIBBONS, EVERETT, BOYD, FLECK, M. KELLER, CONKLIN, CARROLL,  
TRUE, HALUSKA, HANNA, MIRABITO, MAHONEY, PEIFER, BROOKS,  
YOUNGBLOOD, HUTCHINSON, ROCK, DENLINGER, KULA, BAKER AND  
PICKETT, JUNE 12, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 12, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, further providing for vehicles exempt from  
3 registration, for use of farm vehicle plates, for general  
4 lighting requirements, for requirement for periodic  
5 inspection of vehicles, for operation of vehicle without  
6 official certificate of inspection, for securing loads in  
7 vehicles, for safety requirements for towed vehicles, for  
8 width of vehicles and for registered gross weight.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 1302(2), (10) and (17) of Title 75 of the  
12 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

13 § 1302. Vehicles exempt from registration.

14 The following types of vehicles are exempt from registration:

15 \* \* \*

16 (2) [Any implement of husbandry, trailer or semitrailer  
17 determined by the department to be used exclusively for  
18 agricultural operations and only infrequently operated upon

1 highways] Any implement of husbandry and any trailer or  
2 semitrailer towed or hauled by an implement of husbandry  
3 exempt from registration or by a farm vehicle. Vehicles  
4 exempt from registration under this paragraph shall be used  
5 exclusively upon a farm or farms owned or operated by the  
6 owner of the vehicle or upon highways [between] as subject to  
7 the following limitations:

8 [(i) Parts of one such farm.

9 (ii) Such farms located not more than 25 miles  
10 apart.

11 (iii) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
12 located within a radius of 25 miles from such farm or  
13 farms for the purpose of buying or selling agricultural  
14 commodities or supplies or for delivery, repair or  
15 servicing of the vehicle.]

16 (i) For an implement of husbandry or for a trailer  
17 or semitrailer being towed or hauled by an implement of  
18 husbandry between:

19 (A) Parts of one such farm.

20 (B) Such farms located not more than 25 miles  
21 apart.

22 (C) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
23 located within a radius of 25 miles from such farm or  
24 farms for the purpose of buying or selling  
25 agricultural commodities or supplies or for delivery,  
26 repair or servicing of the vehicle.

27 (ii) For a trailer or semitrailer being towed or  
28 hauled by a farm vehicle exempt from registration under  
29 paragraph (10), the areas that the towing or hauling  
30 vehicle is authorized to be driven.

1           (iii) For a trailer or semitrailer being towed or  
2           hauled by a farm vehicle bearing farm vehicle  
3           registration plates under section 1344 (relating to use  
4           of farm vehicle plates) between:

5                   (A) Parts of one such farm.

6                   (B) Such farms located not more than 50 miles  
7                   apart.

8                   (C) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
9                   located within a radius of 50 miles from such farm or  
10                   farms for the purpose of buying or selling  
11                   agricultural commodities or supplies or for repairing  
12                   or servicing the vehicle.

13           \* \* \*

14           (10) Any farm vehicle used exclusively upon a farm or  
15           farms owned or operated by the owner of the vehicle.

16                   [(i) Type I--Such a farm vehicle which does not  
17                   qualify as a motor carrier vehicle may be driven upon  
18                   highways only from sunrise to sunset. However, a farm  
19                   vehicle which qualifies as a motor carrier vehicle and  
20                   displays a currently valid certificate of inspection may  
21                   be driven upon highways without any restriction as to  
22                   time. Such a farm vehicle may only be driven on highways  
23                   between:]

24                   (i) Type A--Such a farm vehicle which does not  
25                   qualify as a motor carrier vehicle may be driven on  
26                   highways only from sunrise to sunset and between:

27                           (A) Parts of one such farm.

28                           (B) Such farms located not more than 25 miles  
29                   apart.

30                           (C) Such farm or farms and a place of business

1 located within a radius of 25 miles from such farm or  
2 farms for the purpose of buying or selling  
3 agricultural commodities or supplies.

4 (D) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
5 located within a radius of 50 miles from such farm or  
6 farms for the purpose of repair or servicing of the  
7 farm vehicle or the trailer or semitrailer being  
8 towed or hauled by the farm vehicle.

9 [(ii) Type II--] (ii) Type B--Such a farm vehicle  
10 which does qualify as a motor carrier vehicle and  
11 displays a currently valid certificate of inspection may  
12 be driven without any restriction as to time but may only  
13 be driven on highways between:

14 (A) Parts of one such farm.

15 (B) Such farms located not more than 50 miles  
16 apart.

17 (C) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
18 located within a radius of 50 miles from such farm or  
19 farms for the purpose of buying or selling  
20 agricultural commodities or supplies or for repair or  
21 servicing of the farm vehicle or the trailer or  
22 semitrailer being towed or hauled by the farm  
23 vehicle.

24 (iii) Type C--Such a farm vehicle which does qualify  
25 as a motor carrier vehicle and which does not display a  
26 currently valid certificate of inspection may be driven  
27 upon highways only from sunrise to sunset and between:

28 (A) Parts of one such farm.

29 (B) Such farms located not more than ten miles  
30 apart.

1           (C) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
2           located within a radius of ten miles from such farm  
3           or farms for the purpose of buying or selling  
4           agricultural commodities or supplies.

5           (D) Such farm or farms and a place of business  
6           located within a radius of 25 miles from such farm or  
7           farms for the purpose of repair or servicing of the  
8           farm vehicle or the trailer or semitrailer being  
9           towed or hauled by the farm vehicle.

10          [(iii)] (iv) A biennial certificate of exemption  
11          shall be required for such a farm vehicle.

12          [(iv)] (v) The owner of the farm vehicle shall  
13          maintain such minimum levels of liability insurance  
14          coverage on the vehicle as are required to be maintained  
15          under Chapter 17 (relating to financial responsibility)  
16          by owners of registered motor vehicles. The owner shall  
17          satisfy the requirements of this subparagraph if the  
18          minimum amounts of liability insurance coverage for the  
19          farm vehicle have been provided under farm liability  
20          insurance coverage maintained generally by the owner.  
21          Coverage prescribed in Subchapter B of Chapter 17 shall  
22          not be required to be maintained or provided for the farm  
23          vehicle.

24          \* \* \*

25          (17) Any multipurpose agricultural vehicle. Vehicles  
26          exempt from registration under this paragraph shall be used  
27          exclusively upon a farm or farms owned or operated by the  
28          owner of the vehicles or upon highways between:

29               (i) Parts of one such farm.

30               (ii) Such farms located not more than [two] five

1 miles apart.

2 \* \* \*

3 Section 2. Section 1344 of Title 75 is amended by adding a  
4 subsection to read:

5 § 1344. Use of farm vehicle plates.

6 \* \* \*

7 (c) Applicability of section 1301.--A truck or truck tractor  
8 bearing current farm vehicle registration plates shall be deemed  
9 to be duly registered for purposes of section 1301 (relating to  
10 registration and certificate of title required), notwithstanding  
11 the commission of any violation of this section.

12 Section 3. Section 4303(e) of Title 75 is amended and the  
13 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

14 § 4303. General lighting requirements.

15 \* \* \*

16 (e) Equipment exempted [by regulation].--Antique motor  
17 vehicles, animal-drawn vehicles, implements of husbandry,  
18 commercial implements of husbandry and special mobile equipment,  
19 if operated exclusively between the hours of sunrise and sunset  
20 and not during periods of reduced visibility or insufficient  
21 illumination, [may be exempted from certain lighting equipment  
22 requirements of this part by regulations of the department] are  
23 exempted from the lighting equipment requirements of this part.

24 (e.1) Certain trailers exempt.--Trailers and semitrailers  
25 exempt from registration under section 1302(2) (relating to  
26 vehicles exempt from registration), when operated between the  
27 hours of sunrise and sunset and not during periods of reduced  
28 visibility or insufficient illumination, are exempted from the  
29 lighting equipment requirements of this part.

30 \* \* \*

Section 4. Sections 4702(a), 4703(a), 4903(e), 4905(e),  
4921(b) and 4942(c) of Title 75 are amended to read:

§ 4702. Requirement for periodic inspection of vehicles.

(a) Annual safety inspection.--Except as provided in  
subsection (b), the department shall establish a system of  
annual safety inspection of vehicles, including emergency  
vehicles, farm vehicles with a gross weight or gross vehicle  
weight rating of greater than 17,000 pounds for which a [Type I]  
Type B biennial certificate of exemption has been issued and  
private noncommercial vehicles used to transport students.

\* \* \*

§ 4703. Operation of vehicle without official certificate of  
inspection.

(a) General rule.--Except as otherwise provided in this  
section, no motor vehicle required to bear current registration  
plates issued by this Commonwealth and no farm vehicle with a  
gross weight or gross vehicle weight rating of greater than  
17,000 pounds for which a [Type I] Type B biennial certificate  
of exemption has been issued shall be driven and no trailer  
required to bear current registration plates issued by this  
Commonwealth shall be moved on a highway and no mass transit  
vehicle shall be operated unless the vehicle displays a  
currently valid certificate of inspection issued under this  
chapter.

\* \* \*

§ 4903. Securing loads in vehicles.

\* \* \*

(e) Exceptions.--This section does not prohibit:

(1) the necessary spreading of any substance in highway  
maintenance or construction operations; [or]

1           (2) the shedding or dropping of feathers or other matter  
2 from vehicles hauling live or slaughtered birds or  
3 animals[.]; or

4           (3) the transportation of agricultural products produced  
5 by a farmer on highways other than freeways between farms  
6 that the farmer owns or operates in the course of harvesting  
7 or on-farm storage of the agricultural products, provided  
8 that the vehicle is not operated or moved at a speed greater  
9 than 45 miles per hour. For purposes of this paragraph, the  
10 exception is applicable regardless of whether the  
11 transportation of agricultural products is performed by the  
12 farmer or by another person who is performing custom  
13 harvesting services for the farmer.

14       \* \* \*

15 § 4905. Safety requirements for towed vehicles.

16       \* \* \*

17       (e) Obstructed lighting equipment.--Whenever the rear  
18 running lights, stop lights, turn signals or hazard warning  
19 lights required by the provisions of Chapter 43 (relating to  
20 lighting equipment) are obstructed by the load on a vehicle or  
21 by a towed vehicle or its load, lighting equipment shall be  
22 displayed on the rear of the towed vehicle or load equivalent to  
23 the obstructed lights or signals, except in the case of  
24 implements of husbandry or commercial implements of husbandry  
25 displaying the slow-moving vehicle emblem [and] or, in the case  
26 of a farm vehicle hauling or towing a trailer or semitrailer  
27 exempt from registration under section 1302(2) (relating to  
28 vehicles exempt from registration), if the hauling or towing  
29 vehicle is operating between sunrise and sunset.

30       \* \* \*



1 § 4921. Width of vehicles.

2 \* \* \*

3 (b) Special vehicles.--

4 (1) Any implement of husbandry or vehicle loaded with  
5 vegetable produce or forage crops and not exceeding 11 feet  
6 in width may be driven, hauled or towed between sunrise and  
7 sunset on highways other than freeways.

8 (2) Any implement of husbandry not exceeding [14 feet 6  
9 inches] 16 feet in width may be driven, hauled or towed  
10 between sunrise and sunset on highways other than freeways:

11 (i) Between parts of one farm owned or operated by  
12 the owner of the implement of husbandry.

13 (ii) Between farms owned or operated by the owner of  
14 the implement of husbandry located not more than 50 miles  
15 apart.

16 (iii) Between:

17 (A) farms; or

18 (B) a farm owned or operated by a farmer and a  
19 place of business of a mechanic or dealer in  
20 implements of husbandry;

21 located not more than 150 miles away for the purpose of  
22 buying, selling, trading, loaning and leasing,  
23 demonstrating, repairing or servicing the implement of  
24 husbandry.

25 The width allowance under this paragraph shall not apply to  
26 an implement of husbandry exceeding 14 feet 6 inches unless  
27 the implement is equipped with reflective edgemarks on the  
28 front and rear and is operating vehicular hazard lamps that  
29 are equipped in accordance with the regulations of the  
30 department and is preceded by a pilot vehicle that is

1 operating vehicular hazard lamps and is displaying a "wide  
2 vehicle" sign on the front of the vehicle.

3 (3) Any implement of husbandry not exceeding 14 feet 6  
4 inches in width may be driven, hauled or towed between sunset  
5 and sunrise on highways other than freeways:

6 (i) Between parts of one farm owned or operated by  
7 the owner of the implement of husbandry.

8 (ii) Between farms owned or operated by the owner of  
9 the implement of husbandry located not more than 50 miles  
10 apart.

11 (iii) Between:

12 (A) farms; or

13 (B) a farm owned or operated by a farmer and a  
14 place of business of a mechanic or dealer in  
15 implements of husbandry;

16 located not more than 150 miles away for the purpose of  
17 buying, selling, trading, loaning and leasing,  
18 demonstrating, repairing or servicing the implement of  
19 husbandry.

20 The width allowance provided under this paragraph shall not  
21 apply to an implement of husbandry exceeding 11 feet unless  
22 the implement is equipped with reflective edgemarks on the  
23 front and rear and is operating vehicular hazard lamps that  
24 are equipped in accordance with the regulations of the  
25 department and is followed by a pilot vehicle that is  
26 operating vehicular hazard lamps and is displaying a "wide  
27 vehicle" sign on the rear of the vehicle.

28 [(3)] (4) Special mobile equipment not exceeding nine  
29 feet two inches in width may be driven, hauled or towed  
30 between sunrise and sunset on highways other than freeways.

1           [(4)] (5) The department may regulate the operation of  
2 special vehicles subject to this subsection which regulations  
3 may prohibit the operation of special vehicles on certain  
4 days or during certain hours.

5           [(5) An implement of husbandry or vehicle used  
6 exclusively for highly perishable crops for processing and  
7 not exceeding 14 feet 6 inches in width may be operated on  
8 highways other than freeways between sunset and sunrise only  
9 during the period of May 20 to October 15. The implement or  
10 vehicle, when used at this time, shall have two rotating  
11 yellow beacons and vehicular hazard signal lamps operating.]

12           (6) Commercial implements of husbandry not exceeding [12  
13 feet] 14 feet 6 inches in width, including wheels and tires,  
14 may be driven, hauled or towed between sunrise and sunset on  
15 highways other than freeways.

16       \* \* \*

17       § 4942. Registered gross weight.

18       \* \* \*

19       (c) Combination.--No combination containing a trailer having  
20 a [gross weight or] registered gross weight in excess of 10,000  
21 pounds or gross weight in excess of 12,000 pounds shall be  
22 operated with a gross weight in excess of the registered gross  
23 weight of the truck or truck tractor for a combination.

24       Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.