

VEHICLE CODE (75 PA.C.S.) - OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS

Act of Jun. 12, 2018, P.L. 204, No. 31

Cl. 75

Session of 2018

No. 2018-31

SB 880

AN ACT

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for operation of certain combinations on interstate and certain other highways, repealing provisions relating to operation of motor homes on interstate and certain other highways and further providing for width of vehicles and for length of vehicles; and, in administration and enforcement, further providing for specific powers of department and local authorities.

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

Section 1. Section 4908(a) introductory paragraph, (b), (b.1) and (g) of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

§ 4908. Operation of certain combinations on interstate and certain other highways.

(a) General rule.--Combinations authorized by section 4904(e) (relating to limits on number of towed vehicles) to have two trailers[, or by section 4923(b)(6) or (7) (relating to length of vehicles) to exceed the length limitation for combinations,] may be driven only on the types of highways and under the limitations set forth below:

* * *

(b) Household goods carriers.--In addition to the operations authorized in subsection (a), a household goods carrier, consisting of a truck tractor and [either of the following:

(1) A single trailer, which exceeds the maximum length for combinations established in section 4923(a), may be driven between the designated network and a point of loading or unloading which can safely and reasonably be accessed.

(2) Two] **two** trailers may be driven between the designated national network and a point of loading or unloading which can safely and reasonably be accessed using highways approved under subsection (a)(2) through (5) for the particular movement.

[(b.1) Short 102-inch trailers.--In addition to the operations authorized in subsection (a), a combination, consisting of a truck tractor and a single trailer not exceeding 28 1/2 feet in length and 102 inches in width may be driven on all highways.]

* * *

(g) Penalty.--A person who operates a combination in violation of this section on a highway which is not marked with signs prohibiting the operation of such a combination commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 for each violation. A person cited under this subsection shall not be subject to citation under section [4921 (relating to width of vehicles) or 4923 (relating to length of vehicles)] **4904**.

Section 2. Section 4908.1 of Title 75 is repealed:

[§ 4908.1. Operation of motor homes on interstate and certain other highways.

(a) General rule.--Motor homes exceeding 40 feet in length but not exceeding 45 feet in length may be driven only on the types of highways and under the limitations set forth below:

(1) On a designated network consisting of all interstate highways and portions of Federal aid primary highways having at least a 48-foot-wide roadway or two 24-foot-wide roadways and designated by the department as capable of safely accommodating motor homes.

(2) Between the designated national network and:

(i) The location where the motor home is garaged.

(ii) A facility for food, fuel, repair, service or rest having an entrance within the access limitation prescribed under Federal Highway Administration regulation of the nearest ramp or intersection, but only on highways having lanes at least ten feet wide.

(3) On highways marked with traffic route signs having travel lanes at least ten feet in width unless prohibited by the department on State highways or the municipality on local highways based on safety reasons and marked with signs prohibiting such vehicles.

(4) Between the highways authorized under paragraph (3) and:

(i) The location where the recreational vehicle is garaged.

(ii) A terminal or facility for food, fuel, repair, service or rest having an entrance within two miles of the nearest ramp or intersection, but only on highways having lanes at least ten feet wide.

(5) Approval of a highway other than as designated under paragraphs (1) through (4) shall be obtained from the:

(i) City in the case of a highway in a city.

(ii) Department in the case of a State highway not in a city, except that the department will, upon request, delegate authority to approve routes under this subsection to a municipality which has been delegated authority to issue permits under section 420 of the act of June 1, 1945 (P.L.1242, No.428), known as the State Highway Law.

(iii) Municipality in the case of a local highway not in a city.

(b) Notice.--Notice regarding approval and revocation of routes shall be in conformance with section 4908 (relating to operation of certain combinations on interstate and certain other highways).]

Section 3. Sections 4921(a), (c), (c.1), (c.2), (c.3) and (d) and 4923(b.1)(1) of Title 75 are amended and the sections are amended by adding subsections to read:

§ 4921. Width of vehicles.

(a) General rule.--The total outside width of a vehicle, including any load, shall not exceed eight feet **six inches** except as otherwise provided in this section. [With regard to stinger-steered automobile or boat transporters or vehicles operating as provided in section 4908 (relating to operation of certain combinations on interstate and certain other highways), the total width of a vehicle, including any load, shall not exceed eight and one-half feet, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.]

* * *

[(c) Buses.--Any bus operated wholly within a municipality, where permitted by the municipality, or in more than one

municipality, where approved by the Public Utility Commission, may have a total outside width not to exceed eight feet six inches when operated upon a highway having traffic-lane widths of not less than ten feet.

(c.1) Motor homes or recreational trailers.--Any motor home or recreational trailer may have a total outside width not to exceed eight feet six inches.

(c.2) Utility trailers.--A utility trailer with a registered gross weight not to exceed 10,000 pounds may have a total outside width not to exceed eight feet six inches.

(c.3) Trucks other than combinations.--The total outside width, including any load, of a truck other than a combination shall not exceed eight and one-half feet except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(d) Nondivisible loads.--Vehicles carrying nondivisible loads not exceeding eight feet six inches in width may operate on any highway having a roadway width of 20 feet or more.]

* * *

(e.2) Excluded devices.--Devices listed in and meeting the requirements of 23 CFR Pt. 658 Appendix D (relating to devices that are excluded from measurement of the length or width of a commercial motor vehicle) are excluded from measurement of the width of a motor vehicle.

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§ 4923. Length of vehicles.

* * *

(b) Excluded devices.--Devices listed in and meeting the requirements of 23 CFR Pt. 658 Appendix D (relating to devices that are excluded from measurement of the length or width of a commercial motor vehicle) are excluded from measurement of the length of a motor vehicle.

(b.1) Combinations.--

(1) The length of a single trailer being towed by a **truck or truck tractor shall not exceed 53 feet [provided]. Truck or truck tractors towing trailers equipped with a kingpin shall not be operated when** the distance between the kingpin and the center line of the rear axle or rear axle group [does not exceed] **exceeds** 41 feet or, in the case of a trailer used exclusively or primarily to transport vehicles in connection with motor sports competition events, does not exceed 46 feet.

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Section 4. Section 6109(e) of Title 75 is amended to read:
§ 6109. Specific powers of department and local authorities.

* * *

(e) Engineering and traffic investigation required.--Action by local authorities under this section shall be taken only after completing an engineering and traffic investigation when and in such manner as required by regulations promulgated by the department. No engineering and traffic investigation is required to establish a speed limit under section 3362(a)(1.2) (relating to maximum speed limits)[.] **or to restrict the operation of vehicles under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-424, 96 Stat. 2097) beyond the access limitations prescribed under 23 CFR 658.19 (relating to reasonable access).**

* * *

Section 5. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) The amendment, addition or repeal of the following provisions shall take effect in 180 days:

- (i) 75 Pa.C.S. § 4908(a) introductory paragraph,
- (b), (b.1) and (g).

(ii) 75 Pa.C.S. § 4908.1.

(iii) 75 Pa.C.S. § 4921(a), (c), (c.1), (c.2),
(c.3), (d) and (e.2).

(iv) 75 Pa.C.S. § 4923(b) and (b.1).

(2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
immediately.

APPROVED--The 12th day of June, A.D. 2018.

TOM WOLF