

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

Act of Nov. 29, 2006, P.L. 1449, No. 159

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Session of 2006

No. 2006-159

HB 2133

AN ACT

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for special registration plates, for identification card, for periods for requiring lighted lamps, for authority to use flashing or revolving blue lights, for permit for movement during course of manufacture and for permits for movement of certain feed and grain.

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

Section 1. Sections 1341, 1510(b), 4302(a), 4572(a), 4968 and 4976 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

§ 1341. Special registration plates generally.

Upon request by the applicant, the department may issue registration plates consisting of any combination of numbers, letters or numbers and letters. These special plates may be issued for special groups or for special purposes and bear an appropriate designation. Special groups may charge a fee for authorization to request a registration plate bearing the name of the group. They shall have the same force and effect as regular registration plates. The department may refuse any combination of letters and numbers for cause and shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the issuance of the plates and for carrying out the provisions of this section. The applicant shall comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to registration including the payment of any additional fees. The department is authorized to reissue a combination of numbers or letters for a personal plate if the department records reveal that no activity, such as renewal or transfer of the personal registration plate, has occurred for a period of five or more consecutive years and provided that the personal registration plate was never reported as lost or stolen. Whenever the department reissues an inactive personal plate, the department may purge its records of all references to the previous owners of that personal plate. The department shall, however, note upon its records the reissuance of the personal plate and to whom the plate was issued. **If the vehicle is licensed to a business that is not a member of the special group, the department shall issue the plate as long as the business owner or officer making application is a member of that group.**

§ 1510. Issuance and content of driver's license.

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(b) Identification card.--The department shall, upon payment

of the required fee, issue an identification card to any person **ten years of age or older** who has made application therefor in such manner as the department shall prescribe or whose driver's license has been surrendered to the department because of a suspension or revocation of an operating privilege under this or any other title. Program participants in the Address Confidentiality Program under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 67 may use a substitute address designated by the Office of Victim Advocate as their address. The identification card shall have substantially the same content as a driver's license but shall clearly indicate that it is not a driver's license. Upon failure of any person to pass any examination required under section 1514 (relating to expiration and renewal of drivers' licenses), the department shall, where appropriate, issue a complimentary identification card as an expression of gratitude for years of safe driving. The card shall only be issued upon receipt of the person's driver's license.

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§ 4302. Periods for requiring lighted lamps.

(a) General rule.--The operator of a vehicle upon a highway shall display the lighted head lamps and other lamps and illuminating devices required under this chapter for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles, at the following times:

(1) Between sunset and sunrise.

(2) Any time when[,] **the operator cannot discern a person or vehicle upon the highway from a distance of 1,000 feet** due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, including rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog, smoke or smog[, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible to the operator for a distance of 1,000 feet ahead].

(3) **Any time when the vehicle's windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to precipitation or atmospheric moisture, including rain, snow, sleet or mist.**

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§ 4572. Visual signals on authorized vehicles.

(a) Flashing or revolving blue lights.--Ambulance personnel, volunteer firefighters, certified volunteer search and rescue [scuba divers] **organization members** and owners and handlers of dogs used in tracking humans may each equip one motor vehicle with no more than two flashing or revolving blue lights.

(1) In order to be eligible to display lights on their vehicles under this subsection, the names of the ambulance personnel, volunteer firefighters and certified volunteer search and rescue [scuba divers] **organization members** shall be submitted to the nearest station of the Pennsylvania State Police on a list signed by the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company, the head of the search and rescue [scuba diving] organization, and each dog owner and handler shall register at the nearest Pennsylvania State Police station.

(2) The manner in which the lights are displayed and their intensity shall be determined by regulation of the department.

(3) The lights shall be operable by the driver from inside the vehicle.

(4) The lights may be used only while en route to or at the scene of a fire or emergency call.

(5) The lights shall be removed from the vehicle immediately upon receipt of notice from the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company or the head of the search and rescue [scuba diving] organization to remove the lights upon termination of the person's status as an active volunteer firefighter or ambulance person or upon termination of the person's active status as a certified volunteer search and rescue [diver] **organization member** or dog owner or handler, or when the vehicle is no longer used in connection with the person's duties as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance person, certified volunteer search and rescue [diver] **organization member** or dog owner or handler.

(6) This subsection does not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor exempt the driver from complying with all provisions of this title.

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§ 4968. Permit for movement during course of manufacture.

(a) Annual permit.--An annual permit may be issued authorizing movement on specified highways of boats, trailers, mobile homes, modular housing units and undercarriages, helicopters, hot ingots, **a hot box**, basic oxygen furnace lances, railway equipment and rails or other articles, vehicles or combinations which exceed the maximum height, width or length specified in Subchapter B (relating to width, height and length) or self-propelled cranes or combinations carrying raw milk, raw coal, flat-rolled steel coils, steel slabs, hot ingots, **a hot box**, pulpwood and wood chips for paper manufacture or raw water which exceed the maximum weight specified in Subchapter C (relating to maximum weights of vehicles) while they are in the course of manufacture and under contract with or under the direct control of the manufacturer, subject to the following provisions:

(1) Except for articles and vehicles not exceeding 102 inches in width, no permit shall be issued under this section for movement of articles or vehicles while they are in transit from the manufacturer to a purchaser or dealer or for the movement of articles or vehicles upon a freeway.

(2) Overwidth articles and vehicles:

(i) Articles and vehicles not wider than 102 inches may be moved any distance on a permit.

(ii) Articles and vehicles wider than 102 inches but not wider than 108 inches may be moved up to seven miles on a permit 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

(iii) Articles and vehicles wider than 102 inches but not in excess of 12 feet in width may be moved up to 50 miles on a permit.

(iv) Wider articles and vehicles may be moved no farther than ten miles on a permit.

(3) A combination of vehicles which is hauling flat-rolled steel coils or steel slabs may be permitted by the

department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdiction a distance not exceeding 50 miles if the gross weight does not exceed 100,000 pounds and the weight of any nonsteering axle does not exceed 21,000 pounds. No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway.

(3.1) A combination of vehicles which is hauling raw milk to or from a manufacturer may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdiction 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except during inclement weather as defined in department regulations, if the gross weight does not exceed 95,000 pounds and if the weight of any nonsteering axle does not exceed 21,000 pounds. No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway.

(3.2) A combination of vehicles which is hauling a hot ingot **or a hot box** may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdiction a distance not exceeding 25 miles if the gross weight does not exceed 150,000 pounds and the weight of any nonsteering axle does not exceed 21,000 pounds. **No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway.**

(3.3) A combination of vehicles which is hauling basic oxygen furnace lances may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdictions if the overall length does not exceed 90 feet. A vehicle operating under a permit authorized under this section may be driven 24 hours a day, seven days a week, if the vehicle or combination is operated at prevailing speeds. Movement under this paragraph is not authorized during any of the following:

(i) A holiday period specified in department regulations or in the permit.

(ii) Inclement weather, as defined in department regulations.

(3.4) A self-propelled crane which is being road tested may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdictions a distance not exceeding 15 miles if the gross weight does not exceed 150,000 pounds and the weight on any axle does not exceed 27,000 pounds.

(3.5) A combination of vehicles which is hauling raw coal from a mine to a processing or preparation facility may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdictions a distance not exceeding 30 miles if the gross weight does not exceed 95,000 pounds and if the weight of any nonsteering axle does not exceed 21,000 pounds. No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway.

(3.6) A combination of vehicles which is hauling raw water from a spring to a bottling facility may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon specified highways within their respective jurisdictions subject to the following conditions:

(i) The vehicle must be a six axle combination - three axle truck tractor.

(ii) Gross vehicular weight must not exceed 96,900 pounds.

(iii) Maximum weight on steering axles shall be 11,000 pounds.

(iv) Maximum weight on the truck-tractor tandem (axles two and three) shall be 38,000 pounds, with a maximum of 19,500 pounds on either axle in the group.

(v) Maximum weight on the semitrailer tridem (axles four, five and six) shall be 47,700 pounds, with a maximum of 16,400 pounds on any axle in the group.

(vi) Minimum spacing between axle one and axle two shall be 12 feet 11 inches.

(vii) The center-to-center distance between the last drive axle of the truck tractor (axle three) and the first axle of semitrailer (axle 4) must be a minimum of 26 feet 7 inches.

(viii) Minimum spacing between tandem and tridem axles shall be 4 feet 1 inch.

No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway.

(3.7) A combination of vehicles which is hauling pulpwood or wood chips from a specified source to a paper manufacturing site may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon specified highways within their respective jurisdictions subject to the following conditions:

(i) The vehicle must be a five axle combination - three axle truck tractor meeting the following characteristics:

(A) Gross vehicular weight must not exceed 95,000 pounds.

(B) Maximum weight on steering axles shall be 11,000 pounds.

(C) Maximum weight on the truck-trailer tandem (axles two and three) shall be 42,000 pounds, with a maximum of 21,000 pounds on either axle in the group.

(D) Maximum weight on the semitrailer tridem (axles four and five) shall be 42,000 pounds, with a maximum of 21,000 pounds on any axle in the group.

(E) Minimum spacing between axle one and axle two shall be 12 feet 6 inches.

(F) The center-to-center distance between the last drive axle of the truck tractor (axle three) and the first axle of the semitrailer (axle four) must be a minimum of 28 feet 0 inch.

(G) Minimum spacing between tandem and tridem axles shall be 4 feet 0 inch.

(ii) The vehicle must be a six axle combination - three axle truck tractor meeting the following characteristics:

(A) Gross vehicular weight must not exceed 107,000 pounds.

(B) Maximum weight on steering axles shall be

12,000 pounds.

(C) Maximum weight on the truck-tractor tandem (axles two and three) shall be 42,000 pounds, with a maximum of 21,000 pounds on either axle in the group.

(D) Maximum weight on the semitrailer tridem (axles four, five and six) shall be 53,000 pounds, with a maximum of 17,670 pounds on any axle in the group.

(E) Minimum spacing between axle one and axle two shall be 12 feet 6 inches.

(F) The center-to-center distance between the last drive axle of the truck tractor (axle three) and the first axle of the semitrailer (axle four) must be a minimum of 45 feet 0 inch.

(G) Minimum spacing between tandem and tridem axles shall be 4 feet 0 inch.

No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway.

(4) A permit may be denied or revoked in order to preserve the safety of highway users or to protect the structural integrity of highways or bridges or as otherwise authorized by department regulations.

[(b) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "raw milk" shall have the meaning given to it in the act of July 2, 1935 (P.L.589, No.210), referred to as the Milk Sanitation Law.]

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

"Hot box." Consists of an enclosure consisting of welded steel plate chained to a semitrailer with a removable lid lined with refraction for purposes of insulation and retention of heat.

"Raw milk." Has the meaning given to it in the act of July 2, 1935 (P.L.589, No.210), referred to as the Milk Sanitation Law.

§ 4976. Permit for movement of domestic animal feed **and whole or unprocessed grain** .

An annual permit may be issued authorizing the movement on highways of domestic animal feed **and whole or unprocessed grain** , in bulk, which exceeds the maximum vehicle gross weight specified in Subchapter C (relating to maximum weights of vehicles). The weight of any vehicle permitted under this section may not exceed 95,000 pounds overall gross weight and the weight on any nonsteering axle does not exceed 21,000 pounds. No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway.

Section 2. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) This section shall take effect immediately.

(2) The amendment of 75 Pa.C.S. § 1510(b) shall take effect in three years.

(3) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60 days.

EDWARD G. RENDELL