

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1699 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, D. COSTA, JAMES, SANKEY, WHEELAND, ZIMMERMAN AND GABLER, AUGUST 15, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 12, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for
3 operation of certain combinations on interstate and certain
4 other highways, repealing provisions relating to operation of
5 motor homes on interstate and certain other highways and
6 further providing for width of vehicles and for length of
7 vehicles; AND, IN ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, FURTHER <--
8 PROVIDING FOR SPECIFIC POWERS OF DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL
9 AUTHORITIES.

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

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

15 § 4908. Operation of certain combinations on interstate and
16 certain other highways.

17 (a) General rule.--Combinations authorized by section
18 4904(e) (relating to limits on number of towed vehicles) to have
19 two trailers[, or by section 4923(b)(6) or (7) (relating to
20 length of vehicles) to exceed the length limitation for
21 combinations,] may be driven only on the types of highways and

1 under the limitations set forth below:

2 * * *

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

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

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

15 [(b.1) Short 102-inch trailers.--In addition to the
16 operations authorized in subsection (a), a combination,
17 consisting of a truck tractor and a single trailer not exceeding
18 28 1/2 feet in length and 102 inches in width may be driven on
19 all highways.]

20 * * *

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

30 Section 2. Section 4908.1 of Title 75 is repealed:

1 [§ 4908.1. Operation of motor homes on interstate and certain
2 other highways.]

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

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

11 (2) Between the designated national network and:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 § 4921. Width of vehicles.

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

30 * * *

1 [(c) Buses.--Any bus operated wholly within a municipality,
2 where permitted by the municipality, or in more than one
3 municipality, where approved by the Public Utility Commission,
4 may have a total outside width not to exceed eight feet six
5 inches when operated upon a highway having traffic-lane widths
6 of not less than ten feet.

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

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

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

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

20 * * *

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

26 * * *

27 ~~Section 4. Section 4923(b.1) of Title 75 is amended to read: <--~~
28 § 4923. Length of vehicles.

29 * * *

30 (b) Excluded devices.--Devices listed in and meeting the

1 requirements of 23 CFR Pt. 658 Appendix D (relating to devices
2 that are excluded from measurement of the length or width of a
3 commercial Motor Vehicle) are excluded from measurement of the
4 length of a motor vehicle.

5 (b.1) Combinations.--

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

15 * * *

16 SECTION 4. SECTION 6109(E) OF TITLE 75 IS AMENDED TO READ: <--

17 § 6109. SPECIFIC POWERS OF DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

18 * * *

19 (E) ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.--ACTION
20 BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE TAKEN ONLY
21 AFTER COMPLETING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION WHEN
22 AND IN SUCH MANNER AS REQUIRED BY REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE
23 DEPARTMENT. NO ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION IS REQUIRED
24 TO ESTABLISH A SPEED LIMIT UNDER SECTION 3362(A)(1.2) (RELATING
25 TO MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS) [.] OR TO RESTRICT THE OPERATION OF
26 VEHICLES UNDER THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1982
27 (PUBLIC LAW 97-424, 96 STAT. 2097) BEYOND THE ACCESS LIMITATIONS
28 PRESCRIBED UNDER 23 CFR 658.19 (RELATING TO REASONABLE ACCESS).

29 * * *

30 Section ~~4~~ 5. This act shall take effect ~~in 60 days.~~ AS <--

1 FOLLOWS:

2 (1) THE AMENDMENT, ADDITION OR REPEAL OF THE FOLLOWING
3 PROVISIONS SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 180 DAYS:

4 (I) 75 PA.C.S. § 4908(A) INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH,
5 (B), (B.1) AND (G).

6 (II) 75 PA.C.S. § 4908.1.

7 (III) 75 PA.C.S. § 4921(A), (C), (C.1), (C.2),
8 (C.3), (D) AND (E.2).

9 (IV) 75 PA.C.S. § 4923(B) AND (B.1)(1).

10 (2) THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT
11 IMMEDIATELY.