

Assembly Bill No. 377–Assemblyman Watts

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to vehicles; authorizing an exemption to certain weight and length limits on certain vehicles operating in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides exceptions to the weight limits imposed on vehicles using the highways of this State for vehicles such as snowplows and fire apparatus. (NRS 484D.600) **Section 1** of this bill adds exemptions for certain heavy-duty tow trucks and certain other heavy emergency vehicles.

Existing law also provides some exceptions to the length limits imposed on vehicles using the highways of this State. (NRS 484D.615) **Section 2** of this bill adds an exemption for a towaway trailer transporter combination, which consists of a vehicle towing empty trailers, provided that the combination does not exceed 82 feet in length or 26,000 pounds in weight.

Existing law provides the same formula for calculating the maximum weight of vehicles that can be operated or moved upon any public highway in this State as is provided in federal law regarding the apportionment to each state of federal highway funds, which results, in most cases, in a maximum weight of 80,000 pounds. (23 U.S.C. § 127(a)(2); NRS 484D.635) Federal law also provides an exception for a vehicle that is operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas, which is authorized to exceed the 80,000 pound limit by up to 2,000 pounds, the exact amount allowed being equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. An exception of up to 550 pounds is also provided in federal law for a vehicle equipped with certain technology that reduces long-duration idling. (23 U.S.C. § 127(s)) **Section 3** of this bill authorizes, to the extent authorized by federal law, a vehicle that is: (1) powered by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas or by one or more electric motors to exceed the existing weight limit by not more than 2,000 pounds; and (2) equipped with idle reduction technology to exceed the existing weight limit by not more than 550 pounds.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 484D.600 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484D.600 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not drive, move, stop or park any vehicle or combination of vehicles, and an owner shall not cause or knowingly permit any vehicle or combination of vehicles to be driven, moved, stopped or parked, on any highway if the vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds in size or weight or gross loaded weight the maximum limitation specified by law for that size, weight and gross



loaded weight unless the person or owner is authorized to drive, move, stop or park the vehicle or combination of vehicles by a special permit issued by the proper public authority.

2. If the Department of Transportation or a local law enforcement agency determines that an emergency exists, the Department or the local law enforcement agency may authorize a person to drive, move, stop or park a vehicle or combination of vehicles without obtaining a special permit pursuant to subsection 1. Such an authorization may be given orally and may, if requested by a local law enforcement agency or a public safety agency, include driving or moving the vehicle or combination of vehicles to and from the site of the emergency. If a person receives such an authorization, the person shall, on the next business day after receiving the authorization, obtain a special permit pursuant to subsection 1.

3. This section does not apply to:

(a) Fire apparatus, highway machinery, ~~or~~ snowplows *or other emergency vehicles* temporarily moved upon a highway.

(b) An implement of husbandry temporarily moved upon a highway other than an interstate highway or a controlled-access highway.

(c) A covered heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle moved upon a highway to remove a disabled heavy vehicle from the highway or the shoulder of the highway to the nearest appropriate repair facility or other safe location where the load may be divided.

4. *As used in this section:*

(a) "Covered heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle" has the meaning ascribed to it in 23 U.S.C. § 127.

(b) "Emergency vehicle" has the meaning ascribed to it in 23 U.S.C. § 127.

Sec. 2. NRS 484D.615 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484D.615 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the length of a bus may not exceed 45 feet and the length of a motortruck may not exceed 40 feet.

2. A passenger bus which has three or more axles and two sections joined together by an articulated joint with a trailer which is equipped with a mechanically steered rear axle may not exceed a length of 65 feet.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4, 7 and 9, no combination of vehicles, including any attachments thereto coupled together, may exceed a length of 70 feet.

4. The Department of Transportation, by regulation, shall provide for the operation of combinations of vehicles in excess of 70



feet in length. The regulations must establish standards for the operation of such vehicles which must be consistent with their safe operation upon the public highways and with the provisions of 23 C.F.R. § 658.23. Such standards must include:

(a) Types and number of vehicles to be permitted in combination;

(b) Horsepower of a motortruck;

(c) Operating speeds;

(d) Braking ability; and

(e) Driver qualifications.

→ The operation of such vehicles is not permitted on highways where, in the opinion of the Department of Transportation, their use would be inconsistent with the public safety because of a narrow roadway, excessive grades, extreme curvature or vehicular congestion.

5. Combinations of vehicles operated under the provisions of subsection 4 may, after obtaining a special permit issued at the discretion of, and in accordance with procedures established by, the Department of Transportation, carry loads not to exceed the values set forth in the following formula: $W=500 [LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36]$, wherein:

(a) W equals the maximum load in pounds carried on any group of two or more consecutive axles computed to the nearest 500 pounds;

(b) L equals the distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles; and

(c) N equals the number of axles in the group under consideration.

→ The distance between axles must be measured to the nearest foot. If a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the next largest whole number must be used. The permits may be restricted in such manner as the Department of Transportation considers necessary and may, at the option of the Department, be cancelled without notice. No such permits may be issued for operation on any highway where that operation would prevent this State from receiving federal money for highway purposes.

6. Upon approving an application for a permit to operate combinations of vehicles pursuant to subsection 5, the Department of Transportation shall withhold issuance of the permit until the applicant has furnished proof of compliance with the provisions of NRS 706.531.

7. The load upon any motor vehicle operated alone, or the load upon any combination of vehicles, must not extend beyond the front



or the rear of the vehicle or combination of vehicles for a distance of more than 10 feet, or a total of 10 feet both to the front or the rear, and a combination of vehicles and load thereon may not exceed a total of 75 feet without having secured a permit pursuant to subsection 4 or NRS 484D.600. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the booms or masts of shovels, cranes or water well drilling and servicing equipment carried upon a vehicle if:

(a) The booms or masts do not extend by a distance greater than two-thirds of the wheelbase beyond the front tires of the vehicle.

(b) The projecting structure or attachments thereto are securely held in place to prevent dropping or swaying.

(c) No part of the structure which extends beyond the front tires is less than 7 feet from the roadway.

(d) The driver's vision is not impaired by the projecting or supporting structure.

8. Lights and other warning devices which are required to be mounted on a vehicle pursuant to this chapter must not be included in determining the length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles and the load thereon.

9. This section does not apply to:

(a) Vehicles used by a public utility for the transportation of poles;

(b) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor drawing a semitrailer that does not exceed 53 feet in length;

(c) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor drawing a semitrailer and a trailer, neither of which exceeds 28 1/2 feet in length; ~~or~~

(d) A driveaway saddle mount with full mount vehicle transporter combination that does not exceed 97 feet in length ~~or~~;

(e) A towaway trailer transporter combination that does not exceed:

(1) Eighty-two feet in length; and

(2) Twenty-six thousand pounds in weight.

10. As used in this section:

(a) "Driveaway saddle mount with full mount vehicle transporter combination" means a vehicle combination designed and specifically used to tow up to three trucks or truck-tractors, each connected by a saddle to the frame or fifth wheel of the forward vehicle of the truck-tractor in front of it.

(b) "Motortruck" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 482.073.



(c) "Towaway trailer transporter combination" has the meaning ascribed to it in 49 U.S.C. § 31111.

Sec. 3. NRS 484D.635 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484D.635 1. Except as otherwise provided in *this section and* NRS 484D.600, 484D.625, 484D.640, 484D.645 and 484D.660, a vehicle may be operated or moved upon any public highway if:

(a) The maximum weight on any single axle does not exceed 20,000 pounds.

(b) The maximum weight on any tandem axle does not exceed 34,000 pounds.

(c) The maximum weight per tire, measured by pounds per inch of tire width, does not exceed 600 pounds per inch for a steering axle and 500 pounds per inch for all other axles.

(d) Except for a steering axle and axles that weigh less than 10,000 pounds, each axle has at least four tires if the tire width of each tire on the axle is less than or equal to 14 inches. If the maximum weight per tire does not exceed 500 pounds per inch of tire width, an axle may be equipped with tires that have a width of more than 14 inches.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the maximum overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles does not exceed the values set forth in the following formula: $W=500 [LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36]$ wherein:

(1) W equals the maximum load in pounds carried on any group of two or more consecutive axles computed to the nearest 500 pounds;

(2) L equals the distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles; and

(3) N equals the number of axles in the group under consideration.

2. Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of axles is 36 feet or more.

3. *To the extent authorized by federal law, a vehicle:*

(a) Powered primarily by one or more electric motors or by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas may exceed the limits of this section by not more than 2,000 pounds.

(b) Equipped with idle reduction technology, including, without limitation, an auxiliary power unit, may exceed the limits of this section by not more than 550 pounds.

4. As used in this section [~~“tire”~~]:



(a) *“Auxiliary power unit” has the meaning ascribed to it in 42 U.S.C. § 16104.*

(b) *“Idle reduction technology” has the meaning ascribed to it in 49 U.S.C. § 16104.*

(c) *“Tire width”* means the width set by the manufacturer of the tire and inscribed on the sidewall of the tire.

