

No. 380

## AN ACT

To further amend section nine hundred two of the act, approved the first day of May, one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 905), entitled "An act for the protection of the public safety; regulating the use of highways, and the operation of vehicles, tractors, street cars, trackless trolley omnibuses, bicycles, pedestrians, and the riding of animals upon the highways of this Commonwealth; providing for the titling, including liens, encumbrances, and legal claims; registration of certain vehicles and licensing the operators thereof, upon payment of prescribed fees; prescribing and limiting the powers of local authorities to deal with the subject matter of this act; conferring powers and imposing duties upon the Department of Revenue, the Department of Highways, peace officers, mayors, burgesses, magistrates, aldermen, justices of the peace, the courts and the clerks thereof, owners of vehicles, and garage keepers; providing that records are admissible as evidence; imposing upon owners, counties, cities, boroughs, incorporated towns, townships, within the Commonwealth, liability for damages caused by the negligent operation of their motor vehicles; imposing penalties; imposing certain costs upon counties; providing for the disposition of fines, forfeitures, \*fees, and miscellaneous receipts; making an appropriation and providing for refunds," by changing the total maximum length of certain vehicles.

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

The Vehicle Code.

Section 1. Section nine hundred two of the act of May one, one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 905), known as "The Vehicle Code," as last amended by the act of September twenty-seven, one thousand nine hundred fifty-five (Act No. 161), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 902, act of May 1, 1929, P. L. 905, last amended September 27, 1955, P. L. 596, Act No. 161, further amended.

Section 902. Size of Vehicles and Loads.—

(a) No vehicle, except motor buses, motor omnibuses and fire department equipment, street sweepers, and snow plows, shall exceed a total maximum width, including any load thereon, of ninety-six (96) inches, except that the limitations as to size of vehicle stated in this act shall not apply to vehicles loaded with hay or straw in bulk.

(b) No vehicle, except motor buses, motor omnibuses and vehicles used exclusively to repair overhead lights and wires, and fire department equipment, shall exceed a total maximum height, including any load thereon,

\* "fees" omitted in original.

of one hundred fifty (150) inches, but nothing herein contained shall be construed to require the public authorities to provide sufficient vertical clearance to permit the operation of such vehicles, excepting that until, but not after, January first, one thousand nine hundred forty-one, any vehicle, properly registered in Pennsylvania on the effective date of this act, may be of a total height, including any load thereon, of one hundred seventy-four (174) inches: Provided, however, That any vehicle carrying motor vehicles may be of a total height, including any load thereon, of one hundred sixty-two (162) inches.

(c) No vehicle, except motor buses, motor omnibuses and fire department equipment, shall exceed a total maximum length, including any load thereon, of four hundred twenty (420) inches, *excepting that a semi-trailer designed exclusively for carrying motor vehicles, may exceed such total maximum length by not more than thirty (30) inches*, and no combination of two (2) vehicles, inclusive of load and bumpers, coupled together, shall exceed a total maximum length of six hundred (600) inches, excepting that nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the transportation by a combination of vehicles of articles impossible of dismemberment, which do not exceed seventy (70) feet.

1. No motor vehicle shall be operated upon a highway drawing, or having attached thereto, more than one other vehicle: Provided, That a trailer not exceeding ten (10) feet in length may be attached to one motor vehicle for the purpose of towing another vehicle requiring service, to which such trailer is also attached.

2. The distance between any two vehicles, one of which is towing or drawing the other, shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet from one vehicle to the other, except when the load on the towed vehicle is coupled directly to and is not more than five (5) feet from the towing vehicle. Whenever the connection consists of a chain, rope, bar, or cable, there shall be displayed, upon such connection, a flag not less than twelve (12) inches in length and width. Every trailer, while being drawn upon the highway, shall be so attached to the vehicle drawing the same as to prevent the wheels of such trailer from deflecting more than six (6) inches from the path of the drawing vehicle's wheels.

(d) No vehicle, except a trailer or semi-trailer, shall carry any load, or part thereof, extending more than five (5) feet beyond the front extremity.

(e) No vehicle, except as herein provided, shall carry any load extending beyond the line of the fenders on the left side of such vehicle, nor extending more than six (6) inches beyond the line of the fender on the right side thereof.

[(g) No truck tractor and semi-trailer, coupled together, except \*fire department equipment, shall exceed a total maximum length, inclusive of load and bumpers, of five hundred forty (540) inches, excepting that until, but not after, January first, one thousand nine hundred forty-one, any truck tractor and semi-trailer, properly registered in this Commonwealth on the effective date of this act, may, when coupled together, be of a total maximum length not exceeding seventy (70) feet, excepting further that nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the transportation of articles impossible of dismemberment, which do not exceed seventy (70) feet: Provided, however, That any combination of a truck tractor and a semi-trailer designed exclusively for carrying motor vehicles may exceed such total maximum length by not more than thirty (30) inches.]

Penalty.—Any person violating any of the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c), (d) *or* (e) [or (g)] of this section shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine of ten (\$10) dollars and costs of prosecution, and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than five (5) days. Such fine shall be in addition to any penalty imposed by any other section or subsection of this act.

Section 2. This act shall be effective immediately upon its final enactment.

**Act effective  
immediately.**

APPROVED—The 6th day of March, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER

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\* "first" in original.