

No. 39

AN ACT

SB 1198

Amending the act of April 29, 1959 (P. L. 58), entitled "An act consolidating and revising the Vehicle Code, the Tractor Code, the Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Act and other acts relating to the ownership, possession and use of vehicles and tractors," revising provisions relating to registrations, registration plates and special permits in connection therewith, revising the information to be contained in applications for registration and in registration cards issued by the Secretary of Revenue; changing the fees for annual registration of motor vehicles, suburban motor vehicles, commercial motor vehicles, motorcycles, antique motor vehicles, truck tractors, certain trailers and semi-trailers, manufacturers, dealers and miscellaneous motor vehicle business class; providing for reduced motor vehicle registration fees for certain motor vehicles of certain retired persons and providing for special owners' cards, plates and stickers; changing the maximum allowed gross and axle weights of certain vehicles, tractors and combinations; and changing the penalties for exceeding such maximum allowed gross and axle weights.

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

Section 1. Section 102, act of April 29, 1959 (P. L. 58), known as "The Vehicle Code," is amended by adding after the definition of "Auxiliary Driving Lamp," a new definition to read:

Section 102. Definitions.—The following words and phrases when used in this act shall, for the purpose of this act, have the following meanings, respectively, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

* * *

"Boat Trailer."—Every vehicle without motive power owned by a natural person, not used for commercial purposes and not used to transport for hire, and which is designed to carry a single boat.

* * *

Section 2. Subsection (a) of section 402 of the act is amended to read:

Section 402. Application for Registration.—

(a) Application for the registration of a [motor] vehicle *or* tractor [, trailer or semi-trailer,] shall be made to the department, upon a form furnished by the department. The application shall contain the full name and the actual or bona fide address of the owner or owners [, together with the name,]; *the make, type and* manufacturer's serial number [, the character of the motive power, seating capacity and, in the case of commercial motor vehicles, the number of square inches of aggregate braking surface of the service brakes as given and certified to by the manufacturer, the rated net brake horsepower of the engine or motor, the governed speed at which determined, and a

declaration of the class in which the vehicle is to be registered, together with the maximum gross weight allowed for such class, and, in the case of electric commercial motor vehicles, the gross maximum weight of chassis, battery, body and load, as given and certified to by the manufacturer, and, in the case of trailers and semi-trailers, the combined weight of the chassis and body, if so constructed, or the weight of the trailer or semi-trailer exclusive of the load to be transported, and, in the case of trailers or semi-trailers, other than those designed and used exclusively as living quarters, a declaration of the class in which the trailer or semi-trailer is to be registered and the maximum gross weight allowed for such class, and also such description of the motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, including lamps and other equipment,] *of the vehicle or tractors; such other information as the secretary shall require; and if the type is one specified in any of the following clauses, the additional information prescribed in that clause:*

(1) *Commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor: The number of square inches of aggregate braking surface of the service brakes as certified by the manufacturer of the vehicle; the rated net brake horsepower of the vehicle's engine or motor and the governed speed at which such horsepower was determined; the type of tires of the vehicle; and a designation by the owner as to which one of the registered gross weights, shown in the table of subsection (a) of section 704, shall be the registered gross weight of the vehicle for the registration year. If the vehicle will be operated in combination with any trailer or semi-trailer having a gross weight exceeding ten thousand (10,000) pounds, the registered gross weight so designated shall be the gross weight of the heaviest combination in which the vehicle will be operated.*

(2) *Trailer or semi-trailer (except a mobilehome, house trailer, office trailer or boat trailer): The type of tires and the number of square inches of aggregate braking surface of the vehicle; and if the vehicle will have a gross weight not exceeding ten thousand (10,000) pounds, a designation by the owner as to which one of the registered gross weights shown in the table of subsection (b) of section 707, shall be the registered gross weight of the vehicle for the registration year.*

(3) *Motor bus or motor omnibus: The type of tires and the seating capacity of the vehicle.*

(4) *Tractor: The number of axles, the gross weight, and whether of the first or second class specified in section 711 of this act.*

The application shall be signed by the owner, if a natural person, and in cases where the owner is a corporation, copartnership or association, by an executive officer thereof or some person specifically authorized by said corporation, copartnership or association to sign the

same, and shall be accompanied by the fee provided in this act.

Section 3. Subsection (a) of section 405 of the act, amended July 25, 1963 (P. L. 312), is amended to read:

Section 405. Registration Cards.—

(a) The department, upon registering a vehicle or tractor, shall issue to the owner a registration card, which shall contain the registration number assigned to the owner and to the vehicle or tractor, the name and address of the owner, [also] a description of the vehicle or tractor, including the manufacturer's serial number thereof, and such other statement of facts as may be determined by the department. *If the vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor, the registration card shall also contain the registered gross weight designated by the owner. If the vehicle is a trailer or semi-trailer, the registration card shall also contain the registered gross weight; if it is a mobilehome, house trailer, office trailer or boat trailer, the registration card shall show that the registered gross weight is "Zero."* The department shall, if so requested, issue to the owner of any vehicle or tractor whose registration is not under suspension a duplicate registration card, or as many duplicate registration cards as the owner may request, upon payment of the fee provided in this act for each such card. Each duplicate card shall be clearly marked "Duplicate" and shall not be transferable. No signature or facsimile signature of the secretary shall be contained on any registration card or duplicate registration card issued for the registration year beginning April 1, 1964, nor any subsequent registration year, but each such registration card and duplicate registration card shall be sealed with the facsimile seal of the department.

Section 3.1. Section 415 of the act, amended July 31, 1968 (Act No. 238), is amended to read:

Section 415. Expiration of Registration.—

(a) All registrations, except registrations as otherwise provided herein, shall be issued for a registration period of one year commencing on such month and day as the secretary shall designate of the year the registration is issued and expiring on such month and day as the secretary shall designate of the year following: Provided, That any initial registration of a vehicle issued after the effective date of this amending act may be issued for any period of time not to exceed two years.

(b.1) Registrations for commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors of classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 shall be issued for a registration year commencing on November first of one year and expiring on October thirty-first of the year following.

(c) Commencing with the registration year 1956 and thereafter, registrations for school buses shall be issued for a registration year commencing on July first of one year and expiring June thirtieth of the year following.

(d) Registrations shall also expire when suspended for cause by the secretary and, immediately, upon the transfer of ownership or the destruction of the vehicle. Registration for the succeeding year may, at the option of their holders, be used on and after the fifteenth day of the month immediately preceding the beginning of such registration year.

(e) Registrations of antique motor vehicles shall be for the duration of the time that such vehicles are owned by residents of Pennsylvania.

Section 3.2. Subsection (a) of section 511 of the act, amended December 9, 1969 (P. L. 340), is amended to read:

Section 511. Expiration of Registration Plates.—

(a) All registration plates, except as hereinafter provided, shall be issued for a registration period of one year commencing on such month and day as the secretary shall designate of the year the registration is issued and expiring on such month and day as the secretary shall designate of the year following: Provided, That any initial registration plates of a vehicle issued after the effective date of this amending act may be issued for any period of time not to exceed two years.

Registration plates shall also expire when suspended for cause by the secretary. The registration plate or plates for a registration year may, at the option of the owner, be used on and after the fifteenth day of the month immediately preceding the beginning of such registration year.

Registration plates for school buses shall be issued for a registration year commencing on August first of one year and expiring July thirty-first of the year following, commencing with the registration year 1971; registration plates for school buses issued in the registration year 1970 shall expire July 31, 1971.

Registration plates for commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors of classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 shall be issued for a registration year commencing on November first of one year and expiring on October thirty-first of the year following.

Registration plates for antique motor vehicles shall be issued for the duration of the time that such vehicles are owned by residents of Pennsylvania. The registration plates issued for any antique motor vehicle shall be returned to the department upon transfer of the title to any such vehicle to a nonresident of Pennsylvania or when suspended for cause by the secretary.

Section 4. Section 701 of the act is amended to read:

Section 701. Motorcycles.—The fee for the annual registration of a motorcycle, as defined in this act, shall be [four dollars (\$4.00)] *eight dollars (\$8.00)*.

Section 5. Section 702 of the act, amended August 13, 1963 (P. L. 776), is amended to read:

Section 702. Motor Vehicles.—The fee for annual registration of motor vehicles, except as provided in this act, shall be [ten dollars (\$10.00)] *fourteen dollars (\$14.00)*, and, if the department shall be requested by the applicant for registration to assign to motor vehicles any special series of registration plates for which no additional fee is expressly provided for by this act, an additional fee in an amount equal to the fee for annual registration of each such motor vehicle. *Such annual registration fee shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) for any person owning the motor vehicle who is retired and receiving social security or other pension and whose total income does not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) per year. No such motor vehicle shall be a commercial or income-producing motor vehicle and no such motor vehicle shall be operated by any person other than the owner given the reduced registration fee. Every such person claiming such reduced annual registration fee shall submit annually with the license application a statement in writing affirming the retired, social security or pension status and setting forth the total income for the previous year. Every such operator granted the reduced registration fee shall carry a special owner's card designed and issued by the department. The department may require specially designed license plates or stickers for motor vehicles of owners granted the reduced registration fee.*

Section 6. Section 702.1 of the act, added October 14, 1959 (P. L. 1321), is amended to read:

Section 702.1. Fee for Suburban Motor Vehicle Registration.—The fee for annual registration of suburban motor vehicles, as defined in this act, shall be [two dollars (\$2.00) in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for annual registration of passenger motor vehicles] *sixteen dollars (\$16.00)*.

Section 7. Section 704 of the act, amended August 13, 1963 (P. L. 761), is amended to read:

Section 704. Commercial Motor Vehicles and Truck Tractors.—[with Pneumatic Tires.—Commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors with pneumatic tires, other than those electrically operated, shall be divided into eight (8) classes, and the fee for annual registration of such vehicles in each of the respective classes, based on the maximum gross weight, shall be as follows:

(2 Axles) Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.	Fee.
R	5000	\$ 16.50
S	7000	26.00
T	11000	35.00
U	16500	55.00
V	21000	90.00
W	26000	120.00
Y	30000	190.00
Z	33000	225.00

(3 Axles) Class		Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.	Fee.	
Commer- cial Motor Vehicle.	Truck Tractor.		Commer- cial Motor Vehicle.	Truck Tractor.
RZ	RT	12,000	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00
SZ	ST	14,000	60.00	60.00
TZ	TT	16,000	72.00	72.00
UZ	UT	26,000	132.00	132.00
VZ	VT	31,000	168.00	168.00
WZ	WT	36,000	208.00	248.00
YZ	YT	40,000	252.00	300.00
ZZ	ZT	47,000	300.00	360.00

(4 Axles in Pairs) Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.	Fee.
Commercial Vehicles.		
RX	14000	\$ 60.00
SX	16000	72.00
TX	26000	132.00
UX	31000	168.00
VX	36000	208.00
WX	40000	252.00
YX	47000	300.00
ZX	60000	360.00

Provided, That as to new two-axle commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors originally titled in this Commonwealth on or after January 1, 1957, but not later than December 31, 1957, there shall be ten (10) classes in addition to the eight (8) classes hereinabove

prescribed therefor, and the fee for annual registration of such vehicles in each of the respective additional classes, based on the maximum gross weight shall be as follows:

(2 Axles) Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.	Fee.
SA	9000	\$ 30.00
TA	13000	40.00
TB	15000	50.00
UA	17000	62.00
UB	19000	76.00
VA	23000	102.00
VB	25000	116.00
WA	27000	140.00
WB	29000	180.00
YA	31000	200.00]

(a) *The fee for annual registration of a commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor with pneumatic tires shall be determined by its registered gross weight, according to the following table:*

Class.	Registered Gross Weight in Pounds.	Fee.
1	5,000	\$ 26.00
2	7,000	36.00
3	9,000	52.00
4	11,000	64.00
5	14,000	80.00
6	17,000	100.00
7	21,000	136.00
8	26,000	168.00
9	30,000	200.00
10	33,000	230.00
11	36,000	260.00
12	40,000	290.00
13	44,000	315.00
14	48,000	345.00
15	52,000	380.00
16	56,000	410.00
17	60,000	440.00
18	64,000	470.00
19	68,000	500.00
20	73,280	535.00

(b) The fee for annual registration of a commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor with cushion or solid rubber tires shall be one and one-half (1-1/2) times the fee shown in subsection (a) for a pneumatic-tired vehicle of the same registered gross weight.

Section 8. Section 705-B of the act, amended and renumbered section 705, December 17, 1959 (P. L. 1920), and section 706 of the act are repealed.

Section 9. Section 707 of the act, amended August 13, 1963 (P. L. 761), is amended to read:

Section 707. Trailers and Semi-Trailers.—[Trailers and semi-trailers equipped with pneumatic or solid rubber or cushion rubber tires, approved by the Secretary of Highways shall be divided into seven (7) classes, and the fee for annual registration of such vehicles in each of the respective classes, based on the gross weight of the trailer or semi-trailer and the load to be transported, shall be as follows:

Two- Wheeled Semi- Trailer Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.	Tire Equipment Fee		
		Pneumatic.	Cushion.	Solid.
A	3,000	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00
B	8,000	30.00	35.00	40.00
C	10,000	45.00	60.00	75.00
D	12,000	57.00	75.00	95.00
E	14,000	73.00	95.00	115.00
F	16,000	88.00	110.00	135.00
G	22,400	125.00	150.00	175.00

Four- Wheeled (2 Axles) Trailer or Semi- Trailer Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.	Tire Equipment Fee		
		Pneumatic.	Cushion.	Solid.
A	3,000	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00
B	6,000	30.00	32.00	40.00
C	10,000	45.00	60.00	75.00
D	16,000	57.00	75.00	95.00
E	20,000	72.00	95.00	115.00
F	24,000	88.00	110.00	135.00
G	36,000	125.00	150.00	175.00

Six-
Wheeled
(3 Axles)

Trailer or Semi- Trailer Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.	Tire Equipment Fee		
		Pneumatic.	Cushion.	Solid.
AZ	12,000	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 55.00
BZ	15,000	55.00	60.00	67.00
CZ	20,000	75.00	85.00	90.00
DZ	26,000	97.00	105.00	120.00
EZ	30,000	112.00	120.00	135.00
FZ	34,000	127.00	140.00	155.00
GZ	47,000	150.00	160.00	180.00]

(a) *The fee for annual registration of a mobilehome, house trailer, office trailer or boat trailer shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00).*

(b) *The fee for annual registration of a trailer or semi-trailer, with pneumatic tires (other than a mobilehome, house trailer, office trailer or boat trailer), for which the owner shall have designated a registered gross weight pursuant to section 402, shall be determined by its registered gross weight, according to the following table:*

Class.	Registered Gross Weight (lbs.)	Fee.
1	3,000	\$12.00
2	6,000	32.00
3	8,000	44.00
4	10,000	56.00

(c) *The fee for annual registration of a trailer or semi-trailer with cushion or solid rubber tires (other than a mobilehome, house trailer, office trailer or boat trailer), for which the owner shall have designated a registered gross weight pursuant to section 402, shall be one and one-half (1-1/2) times the fee shown in subsection (b) for a pneumatic-tired vehicle of the same registered gross weight.*

(d) *The fee for annual registration of a trailer or semi-trailer (other than a mobilehome, house trailer, office trailer or boat trailer), as to which no designation of registered gross weight is required by clause (2), subsection (a) of section 402, shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).*

Section 10. Section 708 of the act, amended November 12, 1959 (P. L. 1499), is repealed.

Section 11. Section 714 of the act, amended August 17, 1965 (P. L. 332), is amended to read:

Section 714. Dealers and Persons in Miscellaneous Motor Vehicle Business.—The fee shall be [five dollars (\$5.00)] *ten dollars (\$10.00) for the first registration and five dollars (\$5.00) for each additional annual* registration issued to manufacturers or dealers in motorcycles, registered in the “Dealer’s Class.”

The fee shall be [twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)] *fifty dollars (\$50.00)* for the first registration, and [five dollars (\$5.00)] *ten dollars (\$10.00)* for each additional annual registration issued to persons in the “Dealer’s Class” or “Miscellaneous Motor Vehicle Business Class.”

The fee shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first annual registration, and two dollars (\$2.00) for each additional annual registration issued to persons registered as dealers in *farm* tractors.

The fee for such registration, when registration is issued on or after the beginning of the seventh month of the registration year, but prior to the beginning of the tenth month of the registration year, shall be one-half (1/2) of the fee for annual registration. The fee for such registration, when registration is issued on or after the beginning of the tenth month of the registration year, shall be one-fourth (1/4) of the fee for annual registration.

Section 12. Section 715 of the act is amended to read:

Section 715. Antique Motor Vehicles.—The fee for registration of an antique motor vehicle for the duration of the time that such vehicle is owned by a resident of Pennsylvania shall be [twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50)] *twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)*.

Section 13. Section 903 of the act, section heading and subsection (i) amended December 17, 1959 (P. L. 1920), subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) amended August 13, 1963 (P. L. 761), subsection (h) amended July 31, 1968 (Act No. 267), and the penalty clause amended January 25, 1966 (P. L. 1584) and July 31, 1968 (Act No. 267), is amended to read:

Section 903. [Weight of Vehicles, Tractors and Loads.—

(a) Commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors, other than those electrically operated, shall not be used or operated on any highway with gross weights exceeding those specified for the several classes as follows:

(2 Axles)		Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
Class.		
R	.....	5000
S	.....	7000
SA	.....	9000
T	.....	11000
TA	.....	13000
TB	.....	15000
U	.....	16500
UA	.....	17000
UB	.....	19000
V	.....	21000
VA	.....	23000
VB	.....	25000
W	.....	26000
WA	.....	27000
WB	.....	29000
Y	.....	30000
YA, but not including tractors,	.....	31000
Z, but not including tractors,	.....	33000

(3 Axles)		Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
Class.		
RZ	.....	12000
SZ	.....	14000
TZ	.....	16000
UZ	.....	26000
VZ	.....	31000
WZ	.....	36000
YZ	.....	40000
ZZ, but not including tractors,	.....	47000

(4 Axles in Pairs)		Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
Class.	Commercial Vehicles	
RX	14000
SX	16000
TX	26000
UX	31000
VX	36000
WX	40000
YX	47000
ZX	60000

(b) Electrically operated commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors shall not be used or operated on any highway with gross weight exceeding those specified for the several classes as follows:

Four-Wheeled (2 Axles) Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
R	5000
S	7000
T	11000
U	15000
V	18000
W	22000
Y	25000
Z	26000

Six-Wheeled (3 Axles) Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
RZ	12000
SZ	14000
TZ	16000
UZ	22000
VZ	26000
WZ	30000
YZ	34000
ZZ	36000

(c) Trailers and semi-trailers, except trailers designed and used exclusively for living quarters, shall not be used or operated on any highway with gross weight exceeding those specified for the several classes as follows:

Four-Wheeled (2 Axles) Trailer or Semi-Trailer Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
A	3000
B	6000
C	10000
D	16000
E	20000
F	24000
G	36000

Six-Wheeled (3 Axles) Trailer or Semi-Trailer Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
AZ	12000
BZ	15000
CZ	20000
DZ	26000
EZ	30000
FZ	34000
GZ	47000

Two-Wheeled (1 Axle) Semi-Trailer Class.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
A	3000
B	8000
C	10000
D	12000
E	14000
F	16000
G	22400

(d) Whenever two (2) vehicles are used or operated as a combination on any highway, the gross weight of the combination shall not exceed the sum of the maximum gross weights, allowed for the respective vehicles and, in addition, the gross weight of the combination shall not exceed the gross weight specified as follows:

Combination.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
Two-axle truck tractor and single-axle semi-trailer	50000
Two-axle truck tractor and two-axle semi-trailer	60000
Two-axle commercial motor vehicle and two-axle trailer	62000
Combination having five or more axles with not less than two axles on each vehicle	71145

Whenever necessary for the protection of any highway or for the safety of traffic thereon, the Secretary of Highways shall have power to limit the maximum gross weight of combinations of vehicles operated thereon, which limitation shall be designated on official signs

placed on such highway at its intersections with highways on which heavier maximum gross weights are permitted.

(e) Maximum gross weights, provided in this section, are allowed only under conditions where no other restrictions are provided in this act or in any other laws regulating maximum gross weights of vehicles.

(f) No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be operated upon any highway with weight in excess of eight hundred (800) pounds upon any one wheel for each nominal inch of width of tire on such wheel or with weight upon each of any two adjacent axles in excess of that specified as follows:

If the Distance Between Two Adjacent Axles Is:		Maximum Weight In Pounds Upon One of Two Adjacent Axles.	Other of Two Adjacent Axles.
At Least	But Less Than.		
36 inches,	72 inches,	18,000	18,000
72 inches,	96 inches,	18,000	22,400
96 inches.		22,400	22,400

(g) No semi-trailer originally titled in this Commonwealth on or after September 1, 1963, and having two or more axles shall be operated upon any highway unless the foremost axle of the semi-trailer shall be at least one hundred forty-four (144) inches from the rearmost axle of the towing vehicle.

(h) Tractors shall not be operated or moved upon any highway with gross weight in excess of sixty thousand (60,000) pounds. The width of tires on the wheels of tractors shall be sufficient so that, including the load on the tractor, the weight shall not be in excess of eight hundred (800) pounds on any wheel for each nominal inch of width of tire on each wheel, or with weight upon each of any two (2) adjacent axles in excess of that specified in subsection (f) of this section.

(i) None of the restrictions provided in this section shall be applicable to fire department equipment or to any motor bus or motor omnibus.] *Maximum Allowed Gross, Axle and Wheel Weights of Vehicles and Tractors.—*

(a) *No motor vehicle, and no combination of which a motor vehicle is a part, shall, when operated upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding seventy-three thousand two hundred eighty (73,280) pounds.*

(b) *No commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor having a registered gross weight shall, when operated upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding the registered gross weight of such commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor.*

(c) No combination of which a commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor having a registered gross weight is a part shall, when operated upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding the sum of (1) the registered gross weight of the commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor plus (2) the registered gross weights, if any, of the other vehicles in the combination. This subsection shall not apply to a combination of a commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor and a mobilehome, house trailer or office trailer.

(d) No trailer or semi-trailer (except a mobilehome, house trailer or office trailer), shall, when operated in combination with a passenger vehicle or a tractor upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding the registered gross weight of such trailer or semi-trailer.

(e) No tractor shall, when operated upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding sixty thousand (60,000) pounds. No combination of which a tractor is a part, shall, when operated upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding seventy-three thousand two hundred eighty (73,280) pounds.

(f) Maximum gross weights allowed by subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, are permitted only under conditions where no other restrictions are provided in, or established pursuant to, this act or any other laws regulating maximum gross weights of vehicles.

(f.1) Whenever two (2) vehicles are used or operated as a combination on any highway, the gross weight of the combination shall not exceed the sum of the maximum gross weights, allowed for the respective vehicles and, in addition, the gross weight of the combination shall not exceed the gross weight specified as follows:

Combination.	Maximum Gross Weight in Pounds.
Two-axle truck tractor and single-axle semi-trailer	50000
Two-axle truck tractor and two-axle semi-trailer	60000
Two-axle commercial motor vehicle and two-axle trailer	62000

Whenever necessary for the protection of any highway or for the safety of traffic thereon, the Secretary of Highways shall have power to limit the maximum gross weight of combinations of vehicles operated thereon, which limitation shall be designated on official signs placed on such highway at its intersections with highways on which heavier maximum gross weights are permitted.

(g) No motor vehicle, and no combination of which a motor vehicle is a part, shall, when operated upon a highway, have a weight upon each of two adjacent axles in excess of that specified as follows:

**If the Center-to-Center
Distance Between Two
Adjacent Axles Is:**

Maximum Axle Weight in Pounds Upon:

	One of Two Adjacent Axles	Other of Two Adjacent Axles
At Least and Less Than 72 inches	18000	18000
72 inches 96 inches	18000	22400
96 inches	22400	22400

(h) No motor vehicle, and no combination of which a motor vehicle is a part, shall, when operated upon a highway, have a weight upon any one wheel in excess of eight hundred (800) pounds for each nominal inch of width of tire on such wheel.

(i) No tractor shall, when operated upon a highway, have a weight upon any one wheel in excess of eight hundred (800) pounds for each nominal inch of tire on such wheel.

(j) No semi-trailer, originally titled in this Commonwealth on or after September 1, 1963, and having two or more axles, shall be operated upon a highway unless the foremost axle of the semi-trailer is at least one hundred forty-four (144) inches from the rearmost axle of the towing vehicle.

(k) None of the provisions of this section shall apply to fire department equipment or to a motor bus or motor omnibus.

Penalty.—Any person operating any vehicle or combination [of vehicles], upon any highway, with a gross weight exceeding the maximum gross weight allowed therefor by subsection (a), or [with weight on any axle or wheel] with a gross weight exceeding by more than three (3) percent the maximum gross weight allowed [in that particular case], therefor by subsection (b), (c), (d) or (f.1), or with an axle or wheel weight exceeding by more than three (3) percent the maximum axle or wheel weight allowed therefor by subsection (g) or (h), shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine for all excess above the maximum weight allowed according to the following [schedule] table:

If the excess is	The fine shall be
Not over 3,000 pounds,	\$ 60.00
Over 3,000 pounds, but not over 3,500 pounds,	120.00
Over 3,500 pounds, but not over 4,000 pounds,	140.00
Over 4,000 pounds, but not over 4,500 pounds,	240.00
Over 4,500 pounds, but not over 5,000 pounds,	270.00
Over 5,000 pounds, but not over 5,500 pounds,	400.00
Over 5,500 pounds, but not over 6,000 pounds,	440.00
Over 6,000 pounds, but not over 6,500 pounds,	600.00

If the excess is over six thousand five hundred (6,500) pounds, the fine shall be six hundred dollars (\$600.00) plus fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each additional five hundred (500) pounds, or part thereof, over such six thousand five hundred (6,500) pounds: Provided, That in any case in which the gross weight of a combination [of vehicles] exceeds [by more than three (3) percent the seventy-one thousand one hundred forty-five (71,145) pound maximum gross weight allowed therefor] *seventy-three thousand two hundred eighty (73,280) pounds*, the fine shall be double the amount determined as hereinabove prescribed for other weight violations: And provided further, That in any case, in which there shall be concurrent violations of more than one (1) of the subsections of this section prescribing maximum weights, the penalty imposed shall be for violation of that subsection which produces the greatest fine, but no penalty shall be imposed for violation of any other such subsection.

In default of payment of any fine and costs of prosecution imposed, pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this penalty clause, the magistrate shall impound the vehicle or combination [of vehicles], and order the arresting officer, or other peace officer, to seize them. The magistrate shall, forthwith, notify the sheriff of the county wherein the violation occurred, who shall store the impounded vehicle or combination [of vehicles]. The sheriff's costs, storage costs, and all other costs incident to impounding, shall be deemed additional costs of prosecution. The sheriff shall give immediate notice by telegram and registered mail, return receipt requested, of the impoundment and location of the vehicle or combination [of vehicles,] to the owner of said vehicle or combination [of vehicles], and the owner of the load if said owners' names and addresses are known or can be ascertained by the sheriff.

The title to the load shall remain in the owner thereof, and he shall be entitled to repossess it at any time upon presentation of proof of such ownership to the sheriff. If the load shall spoil during possession by the Commonwealth, the loss shall be upon the owner thereof, subject to any right of recovery of damages at common law that he may have against the owner of the vehicle or combination [of vehicles] and the cost of disposition thereof shall be deemed an additional cost of prosecution. In case any vehicle or combination [of vehicles] impounded, or the load thereon as aforesaid, shall remain unredeemed, in the case of the vehicle or combination [of vehicles] and unclaimed, in the case of a load, for a period of sixty (60) days after notice of impoundment is given as aforesaid, the same shall be deemed to be abandoned and shall be disposed of by the sheriff upon order of the magistrate, in accordance with the procedures outlined in section 4 of the act, approved the 3rd day of July, A. D. 1941 (Pamphlet Laws

263), with the exception that the reference to a court therein contained for the purposes of this act, shall be construed to mean magistrate: And provided further, That the proceeds of such sale shall first be applied to the payment of costs, and after the payment of encumbrances shall be applied to the payment of the fine, and the balance thereof shall be remitted to the owner.

[Any person operating a vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation of subsection (g) of this section, shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).]

Any person operating a tractor in violation of subsection [(h) of this section,] (e) or (i) shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than twenty (20) days.

Any person operating a vehicle or combination in violation of subsection (j) shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

For the enforcement of this section all peace officers shall have the power to arrest on view for violation of any of the provisions of this section.

Section 14. Section 1302 of the act is amended to read:

Section 1302. Fees, etc., Paid into Motor License Fund.—The department shall collect all fees payable under this act, and all other moneys received in connection with the administration of this act, and transmit them to the State Treasury where they shall be kept in the "Motor License Fund," separate and apart from all other moneys in the State Treasury. *Four dollars (\$4.00) of the fee provided for in section 701 of this act, four dollars (\$4.00) of the fee provided for in section 702 of this act and four dollars (\$4.00) of the fee provided for in section 702.1 shall only be withdrawn from the "Motor License Fund" for the purposes of highway safety and maintenance.*

Section 15. To provide for orderly transition to the new basis of fees and maximum weights prescribed by this act, the maximum gross weight allowed for a trailer or semi-trailer, when operated upon a highway during the month of May 1970, but bearing a Pennsylvania registration plate for the year beginning June 1, 1970, shall be that of the class in which such vehicle was registered for the year ending May 31, 1970.

Section 16. Sections 4, 5, 6, 11 and 14 of this act shall take effect for registration years beginning on and after April 1, 1970. Section 12 of this act shall take effect April 1, 1970. Sections 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and

10 of this act shall take effect for registration years beginning on or after June 1, 1970. Section 13 of this act shall take effect June 1, 1970. Section 15 of this act shall take effect May 1, 1970, and shall be ineffective after May 31, 1970. The change in the expiration date of registration and registration plates for commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors of classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 as provided for in this amending act, shall be effective November 1, 1970, and the fees for annual registration of commercial motor vehicles and truck tractors of the said classes issued for the period June 1, 1970, or thereafter to October 31, 1970, shall be reduced proportionately by the secretary.

APPROVED—The 3rd day of March, A.D. 1970.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 39.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert L. Kelley".

Secretary of the Commonwealth.