

## No. 1980-147

## AN ACT

## HB 34

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding definitions, authorizing a person with a certain cardiopulmonary condition to apply for a registration plate indicating a vehicle is being used by a handicapped person; providing for the posting of certain private property, establishing a speed limit for school zones, providing for construction trucks and for identification of certain vehicles; further providing for the maximum gross weight of vehicles, maximum axle weights, permits to exceed maximum weights.

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

Section 1. Section 102 of Title 75, act of November 25, 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, is amended by adding definitions to read:

§ 102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

\* \* \*

*“Construction truck.” A three or four axle truck engaged in construction operations.*

\* \* \*

*“Tandem axle.” Every axle located within eight feet of another axle.*

\* \* \*

Section 2. Section 1302(a)(4) of Title 75 is amended to read:  
§ 1302. Vehicles exempt from registration.

(a) General rule.—The following types of vehicles are exempt from registration:

\* \* \*

(4) Any vehicle moved by special permit as provided for in sections 4965 (relating to single permits for multiple highway crossings), 4966 (relating to permit for movement of quarry equipment), and 4970(a) (relating to permit for movement of [utility] construction equipment).

\* \* \*

Section 3. Subsection (a) of section 1338 of Title 75, amended July 11, 1980 (No.113), is amended to read:

§ 1338. Handicapped plate and placard.

(a) Handicapped plate.—On the application of any person who:

(1) does not have full use of a leg or both legs or an arm or both arms;

(2) is blind; [or]

(3) is in loco parentis of a person specified in paragraph (1) or (2); or

(4) *is physically limited by a cardiopulmonary condition restricting substantially his movements;*

the department shall issue a special registration plate for one passenger car or other vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 pounds, designating the vehicle so licensed as being used by a handicapped person. Special plates for handicapped persons may also be issued for vehicles operated exclusively for the use and benefit of handicapped persons.

\* \* \*

Section 4. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 1949. *Construction trucks.*

*The fee for movement of construction trucks in section 4970(b) (relating to permit for movement of construction equipment) shall be \$50.*

Section 5. Sections 3353(b) and 3365(b) of Title 75 are amended to read:

§ 3353. Prohibitions in specified places.

\* \* \*

(b) Unattended vehicle on private property.—

(1) No person shall park or leave unattended a vehicle on private property without the consent of the owner or other person in control or possession of the property except in the case of emergency or disablement of the vehicle, in which case the operator shall arrange for the removal of the vehicle as soon as possible.

(2) *The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to private parking lots unless such lots are posted to notify the public of any parking restrictions and the operator of the vehicle violates such posted restrictions. For the purposes of this section "private parking lot" means a parking lot open to the public or used for parking without charge; or a parking lot used for parking with charge. The department shall define by regulation what constitutes adequate posting for public notice.*

\* \* \*

§ 3365. Special speed limitations.

\* \* \*

(b) School zones.—When passing a school zone as defined and established under regulations of the department, no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than [that established for the particular school zone] *15 miles per hour*. An official traffic-control device shall indicate the beginning and end of each school zone to traffic

approaching in each direction. Establishment of a school zone, including its location *and* hours of operation [**and speed limit**], shall be approved by the department.

\* \* \*

Section 6. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read:

**§ 4573. Identification of certain vehicles.**

*Any truck which is used commercially to tow other motor vehicles shall have the name of the business, or person, operating such truck displayed on signs on both sides of such truck.*

Section 7. Sections 4941, 4943, 4948(a), 4961(b), 4970 and 4981(c) of Title 75, section 4941(a), section 4943 and section 4981(c), amended June 18, 1980 (No.68), are amended to read:

**§ 4941. Maximum gross weight of vehicles.**

(a) General rule.—No vehicle shall, when operated upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding 73,280 pounds, and no combination driven upon a highway shall have a gross weight exceeding [**the lesser of**] 80,000 pounds, [**including all enforcement tolerances,**] or the applicable weight set forth in subsection (b) *or* (c), *whichever is less*.

(b) Combination of vehicles.—No combination shall, when operated upon a highway, have a gross weight exceeding the following:

Combination of Vehicles	Maximum Gross Weight In Pounds
Two-axle truck tractor & single-axle semitrailer	<b>[50,000]</b> 58,400
Two-axle truck tractor & two-axle semitrailer	<b>[60,000]</b> 73,280
Three-axle truck tractor & single-axle semitrailer	<b>[60,000]</b> 73,280
Two-axle truck & two-axle trailer	<b>[62,000]</b> 73,280

(c) *Trucks.*—No truck when operated upon a highway shall have a gross weight exceeding the following:

	Maximum Gross Weight In Pounds
<i>Two-axle truck</i>	38,000
<i>Three-axle truck</i>	58,400
<i>Four-axle truck</i>	73,280

**§ 4943. Maximum axle weight of vehicles.**

(a) General rule.—[**Except as provided in subsection (b), no**] No vehicle or combination driven upon a highway shall have a weight upon any axle in excess of the lesser of the manufacturer's rated axle capacity or the following applicable weight:

**(1) Steering axles.—The maximum axle weight upon a steering axle shall not exceed 18,000 pounds.**

**(2) Other axles.—**

Maximum Axle Weight in Pounds Upon:

If the Center-to-Center

Distance Between

the Nearest

Adjacent Axles is:

Under 6 feet

6 to 8 feet

Over 8 feet

One of Two  
Adjacent Axles

18,000

18,000

22,400

Other of Two

Adjacent Axles

18,000

22,400

22,400

**(b) [Vehicles and combinations with five or more axles.—No vehicle or combination with five or more axles driven on a highway shall have a weight upon any axle in excess of the manufacturer's rated axle capacity, nor shall the overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles on combinations with an overall gross weight in excess of 73,280 pounds exceed] Exceptions and special applications.—**

**(1) No combination registered and carrying a gross weight in excess of 73,280 pounds shall have an overall gross weight on any single axle, other than the steering axle, in excess of 20,000 pounds, or an overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles in excess of that produced by application of the following formula:**

$$W = 500 \left( \frac{LN}{N-1} + (12N + 36) \right)$$

Where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles and N = number of axles in group under consideration, except that two consecutive pairs of axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive pairs of axles is 36 feet or more.

**(2) When a truck tractor is registered in excess of 73,280 pounds and is operating in combination with an overall gross weight of 73,280 or less, the maximum axle weight limits of subsection (a)(1) and (2) shall be applicable for the purposes of weighing the combination.**

**(3) No trucks registered in Classes 17 and 20 shall have an overall gross weight in excess of 21,400 pounds on any tandem axle. In addition, a group of three tandem axles shall not have an overall gross weight in excess of 60,000 pounds. This paragraph shall not be applicable to interstate highways.**

*(4) Except on interstate highways, subsection (a) (1) and (2) does not apply to a vehicle or combination operating under the terms of an agreement established under section 4902(c) (relating to restrictions on use of highways and bridges).*

*(5) For the purpose of determining the weight that a six-axle combination registered in Class 25 shall be permitted to carry on a highway, paragraph (1) shall be applied only in the following manner. If the external bridge of the combination is 43 feet and the internal bridge is 32 feet, a group of two consecutive axles may carry a gross weight of 34,000 pounds and a group of three consecutive axles may carry a gross weight of 42,500 pounds. These axles shall be weighed simultaneously to determine their gross weight.*

(c) Gross weight.—No vehicle or combination shall be driven with a gross weight in excess of the sum of the allowable axle weights as set forth in this section, nor shall any vehicle or combination be driven with a gross weight in excess of the sum of the manufacturer's rated axle capacities.

(d) Location of front axle of semitrailer.—No semitrailer, originally 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 semitrailer is at least 12 feet from the rearmost axle of the towing vehicle.

*(e) Lift-axle position.—*

*(1) Except when necessary for turning a truck that is operating under normal load conditions, the lift axle shall be in full contact with the highway under full pressure.*

*(2) Any person violating this subsection is guilty of a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$250.*

§ 4948. Maximum weight and seating capacity of buses.

(a) Gross, axle and wheel weights.—No bus [except a bus of an articulated design] shall be operated upon any highway with a gross weight in excess of [40,000] 73,280 pounds, or [in excess of 20,000 pounds on any axle, or] with a weight on any axle in excess of the lesser of the manufacturer's rated axle capacity or 22,400 pounds on any single axle. Buses operated upon interstate highways shall not have a weight on any axle in excess of 20,000 pounds. No bus shall be operated on a highway with a weight upon any wheel in excess of 800 pounds on any one wheel for each nominal inch of width of tire on the wheel. [No bus of an articulated design shall be operated upon any highway with a gross weight in excess of 55,000 pounds, or in excess of 22,400 pounds on any axle, or in excess of 800 pounds on any one wheel for each nominal inch of width of tire on the wheel.]

\* \* \*

§ 4961. Authority to issue permits.

\* \* \*

(b) **Limitation for truck tractors.**—Permits to exceed the maximum weight limit shall be issued only for truck tractors registered at the maximum weight permitted under section 4941(a) or (b) (relating to maximum gross weight of vehicles). *When a truck tractor is operating under permit, the fine for axle and gross weight violations shall only be applicable to the weight that the vehicle is in excess of the weight allowed on the permit.*

\* \* \*

§ 4970. Permit for movement of [utility] construction equipment

(a) **Utility construction equipment.**—A permit may be issued for the duration of a single construction project, but not exceeding one year, authorizing a public utility or its contractors or subcontractors to move oversized or overweight construction equipment across or upon highways immediately adjacent to the construction site and between the construction site and the base of operations of the utility company, contractor or subcontractor.

(b) **Construction trucks.**—*An annual permit may be issued for a construction truck to exceed the registered gross weight permitted in section 4941(c) (relating to maximum gross weight of vehicles) and the maximum allowable axle weight permitted in section 4943(a) (relating to maximum axle weight of vehicles) on highways and bridges designated by the department. This subsection shall:*

- (1) *only apply to trucks registered at the time of enactment of this subsection; and*
- (2) *expire on May 31, 1986.*

§ 4981. Weighing and measurement of vehicles.

\* \* \*

(c) **[Weighing of wheels or axles.**—If a vehicle is weighed in multiple drafts, or if only a single wheel or axle or pair of axles is weighed, a tolerance of 3% shall be allowed.] *Tolerance when weighing axles.*—*A 3% tolerance per axle shall be permitted when a vehicle is weighed on stationary or portable scales. This tolerance shall not apply on any interstate highway.*

\* \* \*

Section 8. Section 4981 of Title 75 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

§ 4981. Weighing and measurement of vehicles.

\* \* \*

(e) **Calibration of portable scales.**—*Portable scales shall be calibrated every 30 days for the purpose of certification and accuracy by the Department of Agriculture.*

Section 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 10th day of October, A. D. 1980.

DICK THORNBURGH