

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 880 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, EICHELBERGER, RESCHENTHALER, BROWNE, VULAKOVICH, REGAN, STEFANO, AUMENT, DiSANTO, WHITE, KILLION, HUTCHINSON, WAGNER, BARTOLOTTA AND ARGALL, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

SENATOR RAFFERTY, TRANSPORTATION, AS AMENDED, JANUARY 24, 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

1 combinations,] may be driven only on the types of highways and
2 under the limitations set forth below:

3 * * *

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

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

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

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

21 * * *

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

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 Section 4908.1 of Title 75 is repealed:

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

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

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

12 (2) Between the designated national network and:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 having lanes at least ten feet wide.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 § 4921. Width of vehicles.

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

1 * * *

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

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

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

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

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

21 * * *

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

27 * * *

28 ~~Section 4. Section 4923(b.1) of Title 75 is amended to read: <--~~
29 § 4923. Length of vehicles.

30 * * *

1 (b) Excluded devices.--Devices listed in and meeting the
2 requirements of 23 CFR Pt. 658 Appendix D (relating to devices
3 that are excluded from measurement of the length or width of a
4 commercial motor vehicle) are excluded from measurement of the
5 length of a motor vehicle.

6 (b.1) Combinations.--

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

16 * * *

17 SECTION 4. SECTION 6109(E) OF TITLE 75 IS AMENDED TO READ: <--
18 § 6109. SPECIFIC POWERS OF DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

19 * * *

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

30 * * *

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

2 FOLLOWS:

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

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

7 (II) 75 PA.C.S. § 4908.1.

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

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

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