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2003 MAR 27 P 4:44

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Regular Session, 2003

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 95

(By Senators Ross, Hove and Sharpe)

PASSED March 8, 2003

In Effect ninety days from Passage

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Senate Bill No. 95

(BY SENATORS ROSS, LOVE AND SHARPE)

[Passed March 8, 2003; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections two, three and four, article seventeen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, all relating to the size, weight and load of vehicles; increasing the maximum length and width of certain vehicles; increasing the maximum length of the combination of certain vehicles coupled together; allowing commissioner to increase combination vehicle length; and mandating that the commissioner annually publish a map designating state highways and various maximum vehicle lengths pertinent thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections two, three and four, article seventeen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 17. SIZE, WEIGHT AND LOAD.

§17C-17-2. Width of vehicles.

1 (a) The total outside width, exclusive of safety equip-
2 ment authorized by the United States department of
3 transportation, of any vehicle or the load thereon may not
4 exceed ninety-six inches except as otherwise provided in
5 this article: *Provided*, That any vehicle with a total outside
6 width of one hundred two inches, exclusive of safety
7 equipment authorized by the United States department of
8 transportation, may be operated on any highway within
9 the state designated by the United States department of
10 transportation or the commissioner of the department of
11 highways or on any highway having a minimum lane
12 width of ten feet.

13 (b) Motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, motor
14 buses and trackless trolley coaches with a total outside
15 width of one hundred two inches, excluding safety equip-
16 ment authorized by the United States department of
17 transportation, may operate on any highway.

§17C-17-3. Projecting loads on passenger vehicles.

1 (a) No passenger-type vehicle shall be operated on any
2 highway with any load carried thereon extending beyond
3 the line of the fenders of the left side of such vehicle nor
4 extending more than six inches beyond the line of the
5 fenders on the right side thereof.

6 (b) A motor home, travel trailer or truck camper may
7 exceed the maximum width prescribed in section two of
8 this article, if the excess width is attributable to an
9 appurtenance that does not exceed more than six inches
10 beyond the body of the vehicle.

§17C-17-4. Height and length of vehicles and loads.

1 (a) A vehicle, including any load thereon, may not exceed
2 a height of thirteen feet six inches, but the owner or
3 owners of such vehicles shall be responsible for damage to
4 any bridge or highway structure and to municipalities for

5 any damage to traffic control devices or other highway
6 structures where such bridges, devices or structures have
7 a vehicle clearance of less than thirteen feet six inches.

8 (b) A motor vehicle, including any load thereon, may not
9 exceed a length of forty feet extreme overall dimension,
10 inclusive of front and rear bumpers, except that a motor
11 home may not exceed a length of forty-five feet, exclusive
12 of front and rear bumpers.

13 (c) Except as hereinafter provided in this subsection or
14 in subsection (d) of this section, a combination of vehicles
15 coupled together may not consist of more than two units
16 and no combination of vehicles including any load thereon
17 shall have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear
18 bumpers, in excess of fifty-five feet except as provided in
19 section eleven-b of this article and except as otherwise
20 provided in respect to the use of a pole trailer as autho-
21 rized in section five of this article. The limitation that a
22 combination of vehicles coupled together may not consist
23 of more than two units may not apply to: (1) A combina-
24 tion of vehicles coupled together by a saddle-mount device
25 used to transport motor vehicles in a drive-away service
26 when no more than three saddle mounts are used, if
27 equipment used in the combination meets the require-
28 ments of the safety regulations of the United States
29 department of transportation and may not exceed an
30 overall length of more than seventy-five feet; or (2) a
31 combination of vehicles coupled together, one of which is
32 a travel trailer or folding camping trailer having an overall
33 length, exclusive of front and rear bumpers, not exceeding
34 sixty-five feet.

35 (d) A combination of two vehicles coupled together, one
36 of which is a motor home, or a combination of vehicles
37 coupled together, one of which is a travel trailer or folding
38 camping trailer, may not exceed an overall length, exclu-
39 sive of front and rear bumpers of sixty-five feet.

40 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b),
41 (c) and (d) of this section, the commissioner may designate,
42 upon his own motion or upon the petition of an interested
43 party, a combination vehicle length not to exceed seventy
44 feet.

45 (f) The length limitations for truck tractor-semitrailer
46 combinations and truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combi-
47 nations operating on the national system of interstate and
48 defense highways and those classes of qualifying federal-
49 aid primary system highways so designated by the United
50 States secretary of transportation and those highways
51 providing reasonable access to and from terminals,
52 facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest and points of
53 loading and unloading for household goods carriers from
54 such highways and further, as to other highways so
55 designated by the West Virginia commissioner of high-
56 ways, shall be as follows: The maximum length of a
57 semitrailer unit operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer
58 combination shall not exceed forty-eight feet in length
59 except where semitrailers have an axle spacing of not more
60 than thirty-seven feet between the rear axle of the truck
61 tractor and the front axle of the semitrailer, such
62 semitrailer shall be allowed to be not more than fifty-three
63 feet in length and the maximum length of any semitrailer
64 or trailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer
65 combination may not exceed twenty-eight feet in length
66 and in no event shall any combinations exceed three units,
67 including the truck tractor: *Provided*, That nothing herein
68 contained shall impose an overall length limitation as to
69 commercial motor vehicles operating in truck trac-
70 tor-semitrailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combi-
71 nations.

72 (g) The commissioner shall publish annually an official
73 map designating the highways of the state and the various
74 maximum vehicle lengths relating thereto.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Clerk of the Senate

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
President of the Senate

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *27th*
Day of *March*, 2003.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR

Date 3/19/03

Time 4:30