

No. 248

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1989



ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 248

(By Senators Pritt and Chennico)



PASSED April 6, 1989

In Effect 90 days from Passage

ENROLLED
Senate Bill No. 248

(BY SENATORS PRITT AND CHERNENKO)

[Passed April 6, 1989; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend article fifteen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated section forty-eight, relating to altered suspension system of motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article fifteen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section forty-eight, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 15. EQUIPMENT.

§17C-15-48. Alteration of suspension system.

1 (a) No person may operate upon a public highway
2 any motor vehicle registered or required to be regis-
3 tered in this state if it has been modified by alteration
4 of its altitude from the ground to the extent that its
5 bumpers, measured to any point on the lower edge of
6 the main horizontal bumper bar, exclusive of any
7 bumper guards, are not within the range of fourteen
8 inches to twenty-two inches above the ground. No
9 vehicle may be modified to cause the vehicle body or
10 chassis to come in contact with the ground, expose the

11 fuel tank to damage from collision, or cause the wheels
12 to come in contact with the body under normal
13 operation. No part of the original suspension system
14 may be disconnected to defeat the safe operation of the
15 suspension system. However, nothing contained in this
16 section prevents the installation of heavy duty equip-
17 ment, including shock absorbers and overload springs.
18 Nothing contained in this section prohibits the opera-
19 tion on a public highway of a motor vehicle with
20 normal wear to the suspension system if such normal
21 wear does not adversely affect the control of the
22 vehicle.

23 (b) No person may operate upon a public highway
24 any motor vehicle registered in this state if it has been
25 modified by alteration of its altitude from the ground
26 to the extent that its bumpers, measured to any point
27 on the lower edge of the main horizontal bumper bar,
28 exclusive of any bumper guards, do not fall within the
29 limits specified herein for its gross vehicle weight
30 rating category. The front bumper height of trucks
31 whose gross vehicle weight rating is ten thousand
32 pounds or less, may be no less than fourteen inches
33 and no more than twenty-four inches and their rear
34 bumper height may be no less than fourteen inches
35 and no more than twenty-nine inches. The provisions
36 of this subsection do not apply to trucks with a gross
37 vehicle weight rating in excess of ten thousand
38 pounds. For the purpose of this section, the term
39 "gross vehicle weight ratings" means manufacturer's
40 gross vehicle weight ratings established for that
41 vehicle.

42 (c) In the absence of bumpers, and in cases where
43 bumper heights have been lowered or modified, height
44 measurements under subsection (a) or (b) shall be
45 made to the bottom of the frame rail.

46 (d) This section does not apply to specially designed
47 or modified motor vehicles when operated off the
48 public highways in races and similar events. Such
49 motor vehicles may be lawfully towed on the high-
50 ways of this state.

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

Fredrick L. Rosen
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

J. L. Satter
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Todd C. Walters
.....
Clerk of the Senate

Donald T. Kopp
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Sam R. Tucker
.....
President of the Senate

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

The within..... this the.....
day of, 1989.

.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date 4/19/89

Time 10:45