WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1965

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 767

(By Mr. Originating on the Committee
on Roads)

PASSED March 2, 1965
In Effect from Passage

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF
JOE F. GURDETT
SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS DAY 3-10-65
AN ACT to amend article one, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto four new sections, designated sections fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight and fifty-nine; and to amend and reenact section four, article seventeen of said chapter; and to further amend said article seventeen by adding thereto a new section, designated section eleven-b, all relating to the height, length and loads of vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article one, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto four new sections, designated sections fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight and fifty-nine; that
section four, article seventeen of said chapter be amended and reenacted; and that article seventeen be further amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section eleven-b, all to read as follows:


Section 56. Axle Group.—Axle group means an assemblage of two or more consecutive axles considered together in determining their combined load effect on a bridge or pavement structure. The determination of what constitutes an axle group may include any or all the axles on the vehicle or combination of vehicles.

Sec. 57. Tandem Axle.—Tandem axle means any two or more consecutive axles whose centers are more than forty inches but not more than ninety-six inches apart, and are individually attached to and/or articulated from a common attachment to the vehicle including a connecting mechanism designed to equalize the load between axles.

Sec. 58.—Tandem Axle Weight.—Tandem axle weight means the total weight transmitted to the road by two or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included
between parallel transverse planes spaced more than forty inches and not more than ninety-six inches apart, extending the full width of the vehicle.

Sec. 59. Connecting Mechanism.—Connecting mechanism means an arrangement of parts interconnecting two or more consecutive axles to the frame of a vehicle in such a manner as to equalize the load between axles.

Article 17. Size, Weight and Load.

Section 4. Height and Length of Vehicles and Loads.—

(a) No vehicle including any load thereon shall exceed a height of twelve feet six inches, except as provided in section eleven-b of this article, and except that vehicles used as automobile transports including any load thereon shall not exceed a height of thirteen feet six inches, but the owners of such automobile transports shall be responsible to the state road commission for any damages to bridges or other road structures and to municipalities and utility companies for any damage to wire, traffic devices or other structures, and to any person suffering property damage when any such damage is proximately caused by the height of such vehicle or vehicles and load being in excess of twelve feet six inches.
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(b) No motor vehicle including any load thereon shall exceed a length of thirty-five feet extreme overall dimension, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, except that a bus, truck or trackless trolley coach equipped with three axles shall not exceed an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, of forty feet.

(c) No combination of vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than two units and no such combination of vehicles including any load thereon shall have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of fifty feet, except as provided in section eleven-b of this article, and except as otherwise provided in respect to the use of a pole trailer as authorized in section five of this article: Provided, however, That the limitation that no combination of vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than two units shall not apply to a combination of vehicles coupled together by a saddle mount device used to transport motor vehicles in a drive-away service when no more than two saddle mounts are used: And provided further, That equipment used in said combination meets the requirements of the safety regulations of the interstate commerce commission.
Sec. 11-b. Authority of State Road Commissioner to Increase Height and Length Limitations upon Highways

If, in the opinion of the state road commissioner, the design, construction and safety of any highway, or portion thereof, are such that the maximum height or length limitations prescribed in section four (a) and (c) of this article can be increased without undue risk of damage to other vehicles lawfully using such highway or portion thereof, to bridges or other road structures, and to municipal and utility company facilities, wires, traffic devices or other structures, the commissioner may, by order, increase the height or length limitations or both the height and length limitations of vehicles which may be operated upon any such highway, or portion thereof, designated by him in such order and may establish therein the maximum height and/or length limitations which shall thereafter be applicable to the highway or portion thereof so designated by him: Provided, however, That the maximum height of any vehicle including any load thereon shall not exceed thirteen feet six inches, and the maximum length of any combination of vehicles
including any load thereon shall not exceed fifty-five feet,
except as otherwise provided in this article with respect
to the size of vehicles: And provided further, That no such
order of the commissioner shall establish any height or
length limitation in excess of or in conflict with any height
or length limitation prescribed by or pursuant to acts of
Congress with respect to federal-aid highway systems.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 10 day of March, 1965.

Governor
Presented to Hawkins Office
Mar. 6, 1965
9:5-5 p.m.