WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1989

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 248

(By Senators Price and Because)

PASSED April 6, 1989
In Effect 60 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.


1 (a) No person may operate upon a public highway any motor vehicle registered or required to be registered in this state if it has been modified by alteration of its altitude from the ground to the extent that its bumpers, measured to any point on the lower edge of the main horizontal bumper bar, exclusive of any bumper guards, are not within the range of fourteen inches to twenty-two inches above the ground. No vehicle may be modified to cause the vehicle body or chassis to come in contact with the ground, expose the
fuel tank to damage from collision, or cause the wheels
to come in contact with the body under normal
operation. No part of the original suspension system
may be disconnected to defeat the safe operation of the
suspension system. However, nothing contained in this
section prevents the installation of heavy duty equip-
ment, including shock absorbers and overload springs.
Nothing contained in this section prohibits the opera-
tion on a public highway of a motor vehicle with
normal wear to the suspension system if such normal
wear does not adversely affect the control of the
vehicle.

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

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

(d) This section does not apply to specially designed
or modified motor vehicles when operated off the
public highways in races and similar events. Such
motor vehicles may be lawfully towed on the high-
ways of this state.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the
foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signature]
Chairman Senate Committee

[Signature]
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Speaker House of Delegates

The within ........................................ this the ..........

day of ......................................, 1989.

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Governor