

No. 612

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
REGULAR SESSION, 1989



**ENROLLED**

**SENATE BILL NO.** 612

(By Senators Seck and Hagler)



**PASSED** April 6, 1989

In Effect 90 days from Passage

**ENROLLED**  
**Senate Bill No. 612**

(BY SENATORS HECK AND WAGNER)

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

AN ACT to amend and reenact section four, article seventeen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the height and length of vehicles and loads.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

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

**ARTICLE 17. SIZE, WEIGHT AND LOAD.**

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

1 (a) A vehicle including any load thereon shall not  
2 exceed a height of thirteen feet six inches, but the  
3 owner or owners of such vehicles shall be responsible  
4 for damage to any bridge or highway structure and to  
5 municipalities for any damage to traffic control  
6 devices or other highway structures where such  
7 bridges, devices or structures have a vehicle clearance  
8 of less than thirteen feet six inches.

9 (b) A motor vehicle including any load thereon shall  
10 not exceed a length of forty feet extreme overall

11 dimension, inclusive of front and rear bumpers.

12 (c) Except as hereinafter provided, a combination of  
13 vehicles coupled together shall not consist of more  
14 than two units, and no such combination of vehicles  
15 including any load thereon shall have an overall  
16 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess  
17 of fifty-five feet, except as provided in section eleven-  
18 b of this article, and except as otherwise provided in  
19 respect to the use of a pole trailer as authorized in  
20 section five of this article: *Provided*, That the limita-  
21 tion that a combination of vehicles coupled together  
22 shall not consist of more than two units shall not apply  
23 to a combination of vehicles coupled together by a  
24 saddle mount device used to transport motor vehicles  
25 in a drive-away service when no more than three  
26 saddle mounts are used: *Provided, however*, That  
27 equipment used in said combination meets the  
28 requirements of the safety regulations of the United  
29 States department of transportation and shall not  
30 exceed an overall length of more than sixty-five feet.

31 (d) The length limitations for truck tractor-  
32 semitrailer combinations and truck tractor-  
33 semitrailer-trailer combinations operating on the  
34 national system of interstate and defense highways  
35 and those classes of qualifying federal-aid primary  
36 system highways so designated by the United States  
37 secretary of transportation, and those highways  
38 providing reasonable access to and from terminals,  
39 facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest, and points of  
40 loading and unloading for household goods carriers  
41 from such highways, and further, as to other highways  
42 so designated by the West Virginia commissioner of  
43 highways, shall be as follows: The maximum length of  
44 a semitrailer unit operating in a truck tractor-  
45 semitrailer combination shall not exceed forty-eight  
46 feet in length, except where semitrailers have an axle  
47 spacing of not more than thirty-seven feet between  
48 the rear axle of the truck tractor and the front axle of  
49 the semitrailer, such semitrailer shall be allowed to be  
50 not more than fifty-three feet in length and the  
51 maximum length of any semitrailer or trailer

52 operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combi-  
53 nation shall not exceed twenty-eight and one-half feet  
54 in length and in no event shall any combinations  
55 exceed three units, including the truck tractor: *Pro-*  
56 *vided*, That nothing herein contained shall impose an  
57 overall length limitation as to commercial motor  
58 vehicles operating in truck tractor-semitrailer or truck  
59 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combinations.

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

*Frederick L. Parker*  
.....  
Chairman Senate Committee

*Bernard V. Kelly*  
.....  
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

*Joad C. Withers*  
.....  
Clerk of the Senate

*Donald A. Hoopp*  
.....  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

*Sam A. Tamm*  
.....  
President of the Senate

*Bob Child*  
.....  
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *20th*  
day of *April*..... 1988.

*Gaston Caperton*  
.....  
Governor

PRESENTED TO

GOVERNOR

Date 4/14/89

Time 4:57