WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1990

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 386

(By Senators Britt and Wallberg)

PASSED March 9, 1990
In Effect 90 days from Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact section forty-eight, article fifteen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to altered suspension systems of motor vehicles; unlawful acts; and providing special inspection stickers for certain specially designed or modified motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section forty-eight, article fifteen, 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 15. EQUIPMENT.


(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 bumper mounting on the frame more than four inches from the lower edge of the original manufactured bumper configuration for that vehicle. The bumper must be at least three inches in vertical width, centered on the center line of the motor vehicle and not less than the width of the wheel track distance. The maximum distance between the vehicle...
body to the vehicle frame may not exceed three inches. The distance from the vehicle body to the vehicle frame shall be measured from the vehicle body mount seat to the vehicle frame mount seat. 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. Front end suspension by the use of lift blocks is expressly prohibited. However, nothing contained in this section prevents the installation of heavy duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs. Nothing contained in this section prohibits the operation 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 and rear bumper height of trucks whose gross vehicle weight rating is ten thousand pounds or less, may be no less than six inches and no more than thirty-one 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 more than four inches, 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 highways of this state.

(e) 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 as set out in the provisions of this section unless the tires on the altered motor vehicle meet specifications approved by the United States department of transportation. In addition, neither the motor vehicle nor the chassis may come in contact with the tires under normal operation.

(f) Modified vehicles must have a special inspection sticker which must be inspected by the thirty-first day of July, one thousand nine hundred ninety. The fee for the modified vehicle stickers will be twenty-five dollars with the department of public safety establishing rules concerning such inspection. Each municipal, county and state law-enforcement agency must record on accident report forms whether a modified vehicle was involved in the accident.
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The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 31st day of March 1990.

Governor