

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE BILL 600

Short Title: MV Technical Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Gulley.

Referred to: Transportation.

March 22, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE
MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-4.01(12a) reads as rewritten:

"(12a) Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). – The value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight ~~of a vehicle.~~ a vehicle is capable of safely hauling. The GVWR of a combination vehicle is the GVWR of the power unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units. When a vehicle is determined by an enforcement officer to be structurally altered in any way from the manufacturer's original design, ~~design in an attempt to increase the hauling capacity of the vehicle,~~ the GVWR of that vehicle will then be determined by the license weight or the total weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles ~~may be deemed as the GVWR~~ for the purpose of enforcing this Chapter."

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-30(6) reads as rewritten:

"(6) ~~To photostat or otherwise reproduce a driver's license or learner's permit or to possess a driver's license or learner's permit which has been photostated or otherwise reproduced, unless such photostat or other reproduction was authorized by the Commissioner.~~ To make a color photocopy or otherwise make a color reproduction of a drivers license, learner's permit, or special identification card which has been color-photocopied or otherwise reproduced in color, unless such color photocopy or other color reproduction was authorized by the Commissioner. It shall be lawful to make a black and white photocopy of a drivers license, learner's permit, or special identification card or otherwise make a black and white reproduction of a drivers license, learner's permit, or special identification card."

1 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-63(b) reads as rewritten:

2 "(b) Every license plate shall have displayed upon it the registration number
3 assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued, the name of the State of North Carolina,
4 which may be abbreviated, and the year number for which it is issued or the date of
5 expiration. A plate issued for a commercial vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.2(1), and
6 weighing 26,001 pounds or more, must bear the word "commercial," unless the plate is
7 a special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4 or the commercial vehicle is a
8 trailer or is licensed for 6,000 pounds or less. The plate issued for vehicles licensed for
9 7,000 pounds through 26,000 pounds must bear the word "weighted".

10 A registration plate issued by the Division for a private passenger vehicle or for a
11 private hauler vehicle licensed for 6,000 pounds or less, other than a Friends of the
12 Great Smoky Mountains National Park special registration plate, shall be a "First in
13 Flight" plate. A "First in Flight" plate shall have the words "First in Flight" printed at
14 the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals. The background of the plate
15 shall depict the Wright Brothers biplane flying over Kitty Hawk Beach, with the plane
16 flying slightly upward and to the right."

17 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-101 reads as rewritten:

18 "**§ 20-101. Certain business vehicles to be marked.**

19 A motor vehicle that is subject to 49 C.F.R. Part 390, the federal motor carrier safety
20 regulations, shall be marked as required by that Part.

21 A motor vehicle that is not subject to those regulations, has a gross vehicle weight
22 rating of more than 10,000 pounds, but less than 26,001 pounds, and is used in intrastate
23 commerce, and is not a farm vehicle, as further described in G.S. 20-118 (c)(4), (c)(5),
24 or (c)(12), shall have the name of the owner printed on the side of the vehicle in letters
25 not less than three inches in height.

26 A motor vehicle that is subject to regulation by the North Carolina Utilities
27 Commission shall be marked as required by that Commission and as otherwise required
28 by this section."

29 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-116(g) reads as rewritten:

30 "(g) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless such vehicle is so
31 constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or
32 otherwise escaping therefrom, except that sand may be dropped for the purpose of
33 securing traction, or water or other substance may be sprinkled on a roadway in
34 cleaning or maintaining such roadway.

35 Trucks, trailers or other vehicles when loaded with rock, gravel, stone or other
36 ~~similar~~ substances which could blow, leak, sift or drop shall not be driven or moved on
37 any highway unless the height of the load against all four walls does not extend above a
38 horizontal line six inches below their tops when loaded ~~at the loading point, or if not so~~
39 ~~loaded, unless and~~ the load shall be securely covered by tarpaulin or some other suitable
40 covering, ~~or unless it is otherwise constructed~~ so as to prevent any of its load from
41 dropping, sifting, leaking, blowing, or otherwise escaping therefrom.

42 Provided this section shall not be applicable to or in any manner restrict the
43 transportation of seed cotton, of poultry or livestock or silage or other feed grain used in
44 the feeding of poultry or livestock."

1 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 20-118(c)(14) reads as rewritten:

2 "(14) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle that
3 meets all of the following conditions:

- 4 a. Is hauling aggregates from a distribution yard or a
5 State-permitted production site within a North Carolina county
6 contiguous to the North Carolina State border to a destination in
7 ~~an adjacent state~~ another state adjacent to that county as verified
8 by a weight ticket in the driver's possession and available for
9 inspection by enforcement personnel.
- 10 b. Does not operate on an interstate highway or posted bridge.
- 11 c. Does not exceed 69,850 pounds gross vehicle weight and
12 53,850 pounds per axle grouping for tri-axle vehicles. For
13 purposes of this subsection, a tri-axle vehicle is a single power
14 unit vehicle with a three consecutive axle group on which the
15 respective distance between any two consecutive axles of the
16 group, measured longitudinally center to center to the nearest
17 foot, does not exceed eight feet. For purposes of this subsection,
18 the tolerance provisions of subsection (h) of this section do not
19 ~~apply~~ apply and vehicles must be licensed in accordance with
20 G.S. 20-88.
- 21 d. All other enforcement provisions of this Article remain
22 applicable."

23 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 20-118.1 reads as rewritten:

24 "**§ 20-118.1. Officers may weigh vehicles and require overloads to be removed.**

25 A law enforcement officer may stop and weigh a vehicle to determine if the vehicle's
26 weight is in compliance with the vehicle's declared gross weight and the weight limits
27 set in this Part. The officer may require the driver of the vehicle to drive to a scale
28 located within five miles of where the officer stopped the vehicle.

29 Any person operating a truck must enter a permanent weigh station or temporary
30 inspection or weigh site as directed by duly erected signs or an electronic transponder
31 for the purpose of being electronically screened for compliance, or weighed, or
32 inspected.

33 If the vehicle's weight exceeds the amount allowable, the officer may detain the
34 vehicle until the overload has been removed. Any property removed from a vehicle
35 because the vehicle was overloaded is the responsibility of the owner or operator of the
36 vehicle. The State is not liable for damage to or loss of the removed property.

37 Failure to permit a vehicle to be weighed or to remove an overload is a misdemeanor
38 of the Class set in G.S. 20-176. An officer must weigh a vehicle with a scale that has
39 been approved by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services."

40 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 20-142.3 reads as rewritten:

41 "**§ 20-142.3. Certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossing; ~~placarding~~**
42 **~~certain vehicles~~ crossing.**

43 (a) Before crossing at grade any track or tracks of a railroad, the driver of any
44 school bus, any activity bus, any motor vehicle carrying passengers for compensation,

1 any property-hauling motor vehicle ~~over 10,000 pounds which is carrying hazardous~~
2 materials, any commercial motor vehicle that the driver is required to possess a
3 commercial drivers license to operate and any motor vehicle with a capacity of 16 or
4 more persons shall stop the vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the
5 nearest rail of the railroad. While stopped, the driver shall listen and look in both
6 directions along the track for any approaching train and shall not proceed until ~~he~~the
7 driver can do so safely. Upon proceeding, the driver of the vehicle shall cross the track
8 in a gear that allows the driver to cross the track without changing gears and the driver
9 shall not change gears while crossing the track or tracks.

10 (b) Except for school buses and activity buses, the provisions of this section shall
11 not require the driver of a vehicle to stop:

- 12 (1) At railroad tracks used exclusively for industrial switching purposes
13 within a business district.
- 14 (2) At a railroad grade crossing which a police officer or crossing flagman
15 directs traffic to proceed.
- 16 (3) At a railroad grade crossing protected by a gate or flashing signal
17 designed to stop traffic upon the approach of a train, when the gate or
18 flashing signal does not indicate the approach of a train.
- 19 (4) At an abandoned railroad grade crossing which is marked with a sign
20 indicating that the rail line is abandoned.
- 21 (5) At an industrial or spur line railroad grade crossing marked with a sign
22 reading "Exempt" erected by or with the consent of the appropriate
23 State or local authority.

24 (c) ~~It shall be unlawful to transport by motor vehicle upon the highways of this~~
25 ~~State any hazardous material without conspicuously marking or placarding the motor~~
26 ~~vehicle on each side and on the rear with the word "DANGEROUS" or the common or~~
27 ~~generic name of the article transported or its principal hazard. Additionally, the rear of~~
28 ~~any such vehicle shall be conspicuously marked with the words "THIS VEHICLE~~
29 ~~STOPS AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS" or "WE STOP AT RR CROSSINGS."~~ A
30 person violating the provisions of this ~~subsection~~section shall be guilty of an infraction
31 and punished in accordance with G.S. 20-176. Violation of this section shall not
32 constitute negligence per se.

33 (d) "Hazardous materials," for purposes of this section only, means any
34 hazardous material required to be placarded under 49 C.F.R. § 171-180.

35 (e) ~~The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles subject to Federal~~
36 ~~Motor Carrier Safety rules adopted by the Division of Motor Vehicles."~~

37 **SECTION 9.** Section 3 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2003. The
38 remainder of this act becomes effective December 1, 2001, and applies to offenses
39 occurring on or after that date.