

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 1214  
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 6/29/10  
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PROPOSED HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S1214-PCS55641-RWf-96

Short Title: Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Fine/Local Fees.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 19, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO SPECIFIED DEFINITIONS THAT AFFECT THE APPLICABILITY OF STATE LAW CONCERNING MOTOR CARRIERS, IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS AND MAINTAIN FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL'S MOTOR CARRIER SECTION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE AUTHORITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO SEIZE AND DETAIN A PROPERTY-HAULING VEHICLE PURSUANT TO G.S. 20-96 IS NOT AFFECTED BY A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS; TO REQUIRE A PROPERTY-HAULING VEHICLE BE REGISTERED FOR THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT ALLOWED IN ORDER FOR THE VEHICLE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN WEIGHT EXEMPTIONS IN G.S. 20-118; TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT, USE, AND REPORTING OF VEHICLE ESCORT FEES; TO ESTABLISH A THREE-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR ACTIONS RELATED TO CIVIL PENALTIES, CIVIL ASSESSMENTS, OR CIVIL FINES IMPOSED UNDER CHAPTER 20 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, THE MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS OF THE STATE; AND TO ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO REFUND SPECIFIED UNUSED ASSESSMENTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 20-4.01. Definitions.**

Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this Chapter to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

...

(12b) Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). – The value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight 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 in an attempt to increase the hauling capacity of the vehicle, the GVWR of that vehicle shall be deemed to be the greater of the license weight or the total weight of the vehicle or



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1 combination of vehicles for the purpose of enforcing this Chapter. For the  
 2 purpose of classification of commercial drivers license and skills testing, the  
 3 manufacturer's GVWR shall be used.

4 (12c) Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR). – Defined in 49 C.F.R. §  
 5 390.5.

6 (12d) Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). – The total weight of a vehicle, including  
 7 passengers, fuel, cargo, and attachments.

8 (12e) Gross Combined Weight (GCW). – The total weight of a combination  
 9 (articulated) motor vehicle, including passengers, fuel, cargo, and  
 10 attachments.

11 ~~(12e)~~(12f) Hazardous Materials. – Any material that has been designated as  
 12 hazardous under 49 U.S.C. § 5103 and is required to be placarded under  
 13 Subpart F of Part 172 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (~~4~~  
 14 ~~October 2007 Edition~~), or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent  
 15 or toxin under Part 73 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (~~4~~  
 16 ~~October 2007 Edition~~)-Regulations.

17 ...."

18 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-96 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 "(c) The authority of a law enforcement officer to seize a motor vehicle pursuant to  
 20 subsection (a) of this section shall not be affected by the statutes of limitations set out in  
 21 Chapter 1 of the North Carolina General Statutes."

22 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-118(c) reads as rewritten:

23 "(c) Exceptions. – The following exceptions apply to G.S. 20-118(b) and 20-118(e).

24 ...

25 (12) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle that meets all  
 26 of the conditions set out below:

27 a. Is hauling agricultural crops from the farm where the crop is grown  
 28 to any market within 150 miles of that farm.

29 b. Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 761, s. 13.

30 b1. Does not operate on an interstate highway or exceed any posted  
 31 bridge weight limits during transportation or hauling of agricultural  
 32 products.

33 c. Does not exceed a single-axle weight of 22,000 pounds, a  
 34 tandem-axle weight of 42,000 pounds, or a gross weight of 90,000  
 35 pounds.

36 d. Is registered pursuant to G.S. 20-88 for the maximum weight allowed  
 37 for the vehicle configuration as listed in subsection (b) of this  
 38 section.

39 ...

40 (14) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle that meets all  
 41 of the conditions below, but all other enforcement provisions of this Article  
 42 remain applicable:

43 a. Is hauling aggregates from a distribution yard or a State-permitted  
 44 production site located within a North Carolina county contiguous to  
 45 the North Carolina State border to a destination in another state  
 46 adjacent to that county as verified by a weight ticket in the driver's  
 47 possession and available for inspection by enforcement personnel.

48 b. Does not operate on an interstate highway or exceed any posted  
 49 bridge weight limits.

50 c. Does not exceed 69,850 pounds gross vehicle weight and 53,850  
 51 pounds per axle grouping for tri-axle vehicles. For purposes of this

1 subsection, a tri-axle vehicle is a single power unit vehicle with a  
2 three consecutive axle group on which the respective distance  
3 between any two consecutive axles of the group, measured  
4 longitudinally center to center to the nearest foot, does not exceed  
5 eight feet. For purposes of this subsection, the tolerance provisions of  
6 subsection (h) of this section do not apply, and vehicles must be  
7 licensed in accordance with G.S. 20-88.

8 d. Repealed by Session Laws 2001-47, s. 10, effective December 16,  
9 2001.

10 e. Is registered pursuant to G.S. 20-88 for the maximum weight allowed  
11 for the vehicle configuration as listed in subsection (b) of this  
12 section.

13 (15) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle or vehicle  
14 combination that meets all of the conditions below, but all other enforcement  
15 provisions of this Article remain applicable:

16 a. Is hauling wood residuals, including wood chips, sawdust, mulch, or  
17 tree bark from any site; is hauling raw logs to first market; or is  
18 transporting bulk soil, bulk rock, sand, sand rock, or asphalt millings  
19 from a site that does not have a certified scale for weighing the  
20 vehicle.

21 b. Does not operate on an interstate highway, a posted light-traffic road,  
22 except as provided by subdivision (c)(5) of this section, or exceed  
23 any posted bridge weight limits.

24 c. Does not exceed a maximum gross weight 4,000 pounds in excess of  
25 what is allowed in subsection (b) of this section.

26 d. Does not exceed a single-axle weight of more than 22,000 pounds  
27 and a tandem-axle weight of more than 42,000 pounds.

28 e. Is registered pursuant to G.S. 20-88 for the maximum weight allowed  
29 for the vehicle configuration as listed in subsection (b) of this  
30 section."

31 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-196.4 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 20-196.4. Oversized and hazardous shipment escort fee.**

33 (a) Every person, firm, corporation, or entity required by the North Carolina  
34 Department of Transportation or any federal agency or commission to have a law enforcement  
35 escort provided by the State Highway Patrol for the transport of any oversized load or  
36 hazardous shipment by road or rail shall pay to the Department of Crime Control and Public  
37 Safety a fee covering the full cost to administer, plan, and carry out the escort within this State.

38 (b) If the State Highway Patrol provides an escort to accompany the transport of  
39 oversized loads or hazardous shipments by road or rail at the request of any person, firm,  
40 corporation, or entity that is not required to have a law enforcement escort pursuant to  
41 subsection (a) of this section, then the requester shall pay to the Department of Crime Control  
42 and Public Safety a fee covering the full cost to administer, plan, and carry out the escort within  
43 this State.

44 (c) ~~The Department of Crime Control and Public Safety shall comply with the~~  
45 ~~provisions of G.S. 12-3.1(a)(2) when establishing fees to implement this section.~~ A fee  
46 established under this section is subject to G.S. 12-3.1. The full cost of an escort includes costs  
47 for vehicle or equipment maintenance required before or after an escort to ensure the visibility  
48 and safety of the law enforcement escort and the motoring public.

49 (d) All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be placed in a special Escort Fee  
50 ~~Account and shall remain unencumbered and unexpended until appropriated by the General~~

1 Assembly Account. Revenue in the account is annually appropriated to the Department to  
2 reimburse the Department for its expenses in providing escorts under this section.

3 ~~(e) The Department shall report quarterly on the funds in the special account to the~~  
4 ~~Chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, to the Chairs of the House~~  
5 ~~of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and the Senate~~  
6 ~~Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Transportation, and to the Chairs of the Senate~~  
7 ~~and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety."~~

8 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-376(5) reads as rewritten:

9 "(5) Intrastate motor carrier. – Any person, firm, or corporation that operates or  
10 controls a ~~commercial~~ motor vehicle as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(3d) in  
11 ~~intrastate commeree~~ in intrastate commerce when the vehicle:

12 a. Is a vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross  
13 combination weight rating (GCWR) or gross vehicle weight (GVW)  
14 or gross combination weight (GCW) of 26,001 pounds or more,  
15 whichever is greater.

16 b. Is designed or used to transport 16 or more passengers, including the  
17 driver.

18 c. Is used in transporting a hazardous material in a quantity requiring  
19 placarding pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Parts 170 through 185."

20 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 1-52 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

21 "(20) Upon a liability for a civil penalty, civil assessment, or civil fine imposed  
22 pursuant to Chapter 20 of the General Statutes."

23 **SECTION 7.** A local government that imposed an assessment prior to 2005 to  
24 finance a capital project that has been assumed by another unit of local government may return  
25 unused assessments to the person that paid the assessment.

26 **SECTION 8.** Sections 3 and 5 of this act become effective October 1, 2010, and  
27 apply to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it  
28 becomes law.