

1 S.49

2 Introduced by Committee on Transportation

3 Date:

4 Subject: Motor vehicles; commercial motor vehicles; interstate highways; axle
5 limits; weight limits; exceptions; permits

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to authorize commercial motor
7 vehicles to operate on the national system of interstate and defense highways
8 with the same weight and axle limits and subject to the same requirements that
9 apply on other portions of the state highway system, if authorized
10 by federal law, and to repeal a provision authorizing the transport of an
11 indivisible load of quarried rock under blanket permits.

12 An act relating to commercial motor vehicle operation on the interstate
13 system

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1391 is amended to read:

16 § 1391. TIRE AND AXLE LIMITS

17 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person or corporation
18 shall not operate or cause to be operated a tractor, trailer, semi-trailer, motor
19 truck, or any other motor vehicle without sufficient weight maintained upon
20 the front axle of such vehicle to make such vehicle safe in operation; nor shall

1 the maximum load on any axle of such vehicle exceed a gross weight of more
2 than 600 pounds per inch of tire width computed in conformity with the
3 manufacturer's designated width.

4 (b) No single axle load shall be in excess of 22,400 pounds and a 10
5 percent tolerance shall be allowed on each single axle load, nor shall any
6 tandem axle load be in excess of 36,000 pounds, with a 10 percent tolerance
7 allowed, except in the case of such vehicles owned by persons to whom special
8 permits shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 1400 of
9 this title.

10 (c) ~~On~~ Unless federal law authorizes the axle load limits, tolerances, or
11 both provided for in subsection (b) of this section to apply on those highways
12 designated as the national system of interstate and defense highways (the
13 "interstate highways"), no single axle load on interstate highways shall be in
14 excess of 20,000 pounds with no tolerance allowed, nor shall any tandem axle
15 load be in excess of 34,000 pounds, with no tolerance allowed, except in the
16 case of vehicles owned by persons to whom special permits have been issued
17 in accordance with section 1400 of this title.

1 subdivision if the specifications for the vehicle would not permit its safe
2 operation when so loaded.

3 (6) Despite the axle load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the
4 distance in feet between first and last axle as provided for in subdivision (4) of
5 this section, a motor truck having four axles, three of which are a tri-axle and
6 at least two axles in this group being power driven and equipped with adequate
7 brakes; the gross weight of the four axles of the truck shall not exceed 60,000
8 pounds, however:

9 (A) No two axles in the tri-axle group shall support more than 42,000
10 pounds with a ten percent tolerance;

11 (B) No single axle of the tri-axle group shall support more than
12 22,400 pounds with a ten percent tolerance;

13 (C) The total load supported by the tri-axle group shall not exceed
14 54,000 pounds;

15 (D) Three or more axles within a distance of 12 feet or less apart
16 shall be considered as a tri-axle group and, if a single axle is closer than 8 feet
17 to the nearest axle of the tri-axle group, the total load shall not exceed that
18 allowed for a tri-axle group;

19 (E) [Repealed.]

20 (7), (8) [Repealed.]

1 (9) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (4) of this section an~~
2 ~~indivisible load consisting of quarried rock may be transported upon the~~
3 ~~designated highways of this state consistent with section 1400 of this title~~
4 ~~together with zone blanket permits regulations as set forth in the regulations~~
5 ~~and instructions governing overweight and overdimension vehicle permits on~~
6 ~~file with the secretary of state and any amendment thereto. [Repealed.]~~

7 (10) [Repealed.]

8 (11) ~~Subdivisions~~ The weights or tolerances or both as set forth in
9 subdivisions (5) and (6) of this section shall not apply to the highways
10 designated as portions of the national system of interstate and defense
11 highways unless authorized by federal law.

12 (12) [Repealed.]

13 (13) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the
14 maximum gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a special annual permit,
15 which shall expire coincidentally with the vehicle's registration, except for
16 vehicles not registered in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void
17 on January 1 following date of issue, may be issued to a person or corporation
18 operating on designated routes on the state highway system for a fee of
19 \$310.00 for each vehicle which must be registered for a weight of 80,000
20 pounds. This special permit shall be issued only for a combination of vehicle
21 and semi-trailer or trailer equipped with five or more axles, with a distance

1 between axles which meets the minimum requirements of registering the
2 vehicle to 80,000 pounds as allowed under subdivision (4) of this section. The
3 maximum gross load under this special permit shall be 90,000 pounds. ~~The~~
4 ~~provision of~~ Unless authorized by federal law, this subdivision shall not apply
5 to operation on the interstate and defense highway system.

6 (14) Despite the axle-load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the
7 axle spacing and the maximum gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a
8 special annual permit, which shall expire coincidentally with the vehicle's
9 registration, except for vehicles not registered in Vermont in which case the
10 permit shall become void on January 1 following date of issue, may be issued
11 to a person or corporation transporting loads on vehicles on designated routes
12 on the state highway system for the following fees for each vehicle unit.

13 Unless authorized by federal law, the provisions of this subdivision regarding
14 weight limits, tolerances, or both shall not apply to operation on the interstate
15 and defense highway system. This special permit shall be issued for the
16 following vehicles and conditions:

17 (A) 3-axle trucks with a single steering axle and a rear tandem axle
18 which have a maximum gross weight of not more than 60,000 pounds when
19 registered for a minimum gross weight of not more than 55,000 pounds, the
20 permit fee shall be \$115.00;

1 (B) 4-axle trucks with a single steering axle and a rear tri-axle unit
2 which have a maximum gross weight of not more than 69,000 pounds when
3 registered for a minimum weight of 60,000 pounds, the permit fee shall be
4 \$260.00;

5 (C) 4-axle tractor semi-trailer or truck trailer combination with a
6 maximum gross weight of not more than 72,000 pounds provided the distance
7 between the second axle of the tractor and the rear axle of the trailer is at least
8 24 feet measured to the nearest foot. For each foot or fraction of a foot less
9 than 24 feet, measured to the nearest foot, a reduction of 2,000 pounds in the
10 maximum gross weight shall be made. The permit fee shall be \$10.00;

11 (D) 5- or more axle tractor semi-trailer or truck trailer combination
12 with a maximum gross weight of not more than 76,000 pounds provided that
13 the distance between the first and last axle of two consecutive sets of tandem
14 axles is at least 24 feet measured to the nearest foot. For each foot or fraction
15 of a foot less than 24 feet, measured to the nearest foot, a reduction of 2,000
16 pounds in the maximum gross weight shall be made. The permit fee shall be
17 \$10.00;

18 (E) No single axle of a tandem axle unit shall support more than 60
19 percent of the total weight supported by such tandem axle unit;

20 (F) No single axle of a tri-axle unit shall support more than 40
21 percent of the total weight supported by such tri-axle unit;

1 (G) The maximum load on any axle of such vehicle shall not exceed
2 more than 600 pounds per inch of tire width computed in conformity with the
3 manufacturer's designated width;

4 (H) A five percent tolerance shall be allowed on the gross vehicle
5 weights allowed under permits issued pursuant to this subdivision.

6 (15) Despite the axle load provisions of section 1391 of this title and the
7 axle spacing and the maximum gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a
8 5-axle tractor semi-trailer may operate on state highways with the following
9 conditions:

10 (A) For each foot or fraction of a foot less than 36 feet between the
11 first and last axle of two consecutive sets of tandem axles, a reduction of 2,000
12 pounds in the maximum gross weight of 80,000 pounds shall be made;

13 (B) Conditions in subdivisions (14)(D) and (F) of this section shall
14 also apply to this subdivision, and unless authorized by federal law, this
15 subdivision shall not apply to operation on the interstate and defense highway
16 system.

17 (16) Notwithstanding ~~any other provision of law~~ the axle load
18 provisions of section 1391 of this title and the axle spacing and maximum
19 gross load of subdivision (4) of this section, a five or more axle truck tractor,
20 semi-trailer combination, or truck trailer combination, when the load consists
21 solely of unprocessed milk products as defined in subdivision 4(55) of this

1 title, may be registered for and operated with a maximum gross weight of
2 90,000 pounds on state highways without permit, and upon posted state and
3 town highways and on those highways designated as the national system of
4 interstate and defense highways when the vehicle has been issued a permit in
5 compliance with the provisions of section 1400 of this title; however:

6 (A) Vehicles registered pursuant to this subdivision (16) shall be
7 subject to the same axle spacing restrictions as are applied to five or more axle
8 vehicles registered to 80,000 pounds as set forth in subdivision (4) of this
9 section;

10 (B) ~~The following shall also apply to vehicles registered pursuant to~~
11 ~~this subdivision (16):~~

12 (i) ~~no single axle load shall be in excess of 22,400 pounds except~~
13 ~~that a 10 percent tolerance shall be allowed on each single axle;~~

14 (ii) ~~no tandem axle load shall be in excess of 36,000 pounds except~~
15 ~~that a 10 percent tolerance shall be allowed on each tandem axle;~~

16 (iii) ~~no single axle of a tandem axle unit shall support more than 60~~
17 ~~percent of the total rate supported by the tandem axle unit;~~

18 (iv) ~~no tri axle group, as defined in subdivision (6)(D) of this~~
19 ~~section, shall support a gross weight in excess of that allowed in subdivision~~
20 ~~(4) of this section and no tolerance shall be allowed on any tri axle group;~~

1 ~~(v) no single axle of a tri-axle group shall support more than 40~~
2 ~~percent of the total weight supported by the tri-axle group;~~

3 ~~(vi) the maximum load on any axle of the vehicle shall not exceed~~
4 ~~more than 600 pounds per inch of tire width computed in conformity with the~~
5 ~~manufacturer's designated width;~~

6 ~~(vii) no No tolerance shall be allowed on the gross weight of any~~
7 ~~vehicle registered under the provisions of this subdivision (16), nor shall the~~
8 ~~axle tolerance permitted in subdivisions (i) and (ii) of this subdivision apply~~
9 ~~when the vehicle is being operated upon posted state or town highways~~
10 ~~pursuant to the provisions of section 1400 of this title. On those highways~~
11 ~~designated as the national system of interstate and defense highways, the~~
12 ~~provisions of subsection 1391(c) of this title shall apply.~~

13 (C) The fee for the annual permit as provided in this subdivision shall
14 be \$7.00 when the fee has been paid to register the vehicle for 90,000 pounds
15 or \$285.00 when the vehicle is registered for 80,000 pounds.

16 (17) Notwithstanding the gross vehicle weight provisions of subdivision
17 (4) of this section, a truck trailer combination or truck tractor, semi-trailer
18 combination with six or more load-bearing axles shall be allowed to bear a
19 maximum of 99,000 pounds by special annual permit, which shall expire
20 coincidentally with the vehicle's registration, except for vehicles not registered
21 in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void on January 1 following

1 the date of issue, for operating on designated routes on ~~the~~ state and town
2 highways, subject to the following:

3 * * *

4 (E) ~~The~~ Unless authorized by federal law, the provisions of this
5 subdivision shall not apply to operation on the interstate and defense highway
6 system.

7 (F) The fee for the annual permit as provided in this subdivision shall
8 be \$310.00 for vehicles bearing up to 90,000 pounds and \$500.00 for vehicles
9 bearing up to 99,000 pounds.

10 * * *

11 (19)(A) A person issued a permit under the provisions of ~~subdivisions~~
12 subdivision (13), (14), (16), or (17), ~~or (20)~~ of this section and upon payment
13 of a \$10.00 administrative fee for each additional permit, may obtain additional
14 permits for the same vehicle provided the additional permit is for a lesser
15 weight and provided the vehicle or combination of vehicles meets the
16 minimum requirements for the permit sought as set forth in this section.

17 * * *

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.