

As Engrossed: 3/11/91

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative D. Wood**

A BILL ACT 1031 OF 1991
HOUSE BILL 2046

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND SUBSECTION (b) OF ARKANSAS CODE § 27-35-
9 203 TO RE-DEFINE THE TERM `TANDEM' AXLES; TO AMEND
10 SUBSECTION (e) OF ARKANSAS CODE § 27-35-203 TO CLARIFY
11 THAT ALL VEHICLES OPERATING ON THE HIGHWAYS OF ARKANSAS IN
12 EXCESS OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS (18,000 LBS.) ON A
13 SINGLE AXLE OR THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND POUNDS (32,000 LBS.) ON
14 A TANDEM AXLE OR IN EXCESS OF SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO
15 HUNDRED EIGHTY POUNDS (73,280 LBS.) MUST COMPLY WITH THE
16 FORMULA SET FORTH HEREIN TO INSURE ARKANSAS SIZE AND
17 WEIGHT LAWS ARE COMPATIBLE TO FEDERAL LAWS AND
18 REGULATIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
19 PURPOSES."

20
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

22
23 SECTION 1. Subsection (b) of Arkansas Code § 27-35-203 is hereby
24 amended to read as follows:

25 "(b) Maximum Tandem-Axle Load. (1) The total gross load imposed on
26 the highway by two (2) or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included
27 between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced more than forty inches
28 (40") and not more than ninety-six inches (96") apart, extending across the
29 full width of the vehicle, shall not exceed thirty-four thousand pounds
30 (34,000 lbs.).

31 (2) No one (1) axle of any such group of two (2) or more
32 consecutive axles shall exceed the load permitted for a single axle."

33
34 SECTION 2. Subsection (e) of Arkansas Code § 27-35-203 is hereby
35 amended to read as follows:

36 "(e) (1) No vehicle, or combination of vehicles, shall operate upon any

1 highway in this state when the total gross load imposed on the highway by the
2 wheels of any one single axle of such vehicle or combination exceeds 18,000
3 pounds, nor when the total gross load imposed on the highway by two (2) or
4 more consecutive axles of any such vehicle or combination of vehicles whose
5 centers may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced
6 more than forty inches (40") and not more than ninety-six inches (96") apart,
7 extending across the full width of the vehicle or combination of vehicles,
8 exceeds thirty-two thousand pounds (32,000 lbs.) nor when the total gross
9 weight of the vehicle, or combination of vehicles thereof, is in excess of
10 seventy-three thousand two hundred eighty pounds (73,280 lbs.) unless the
11 vehicle, or combination thereof, shall not exceed the value given in Table I
12 corresponding to the distance in feet between the extreme axles of the group,
13 measured longitudinally to the nearest foot.

14

15

Table I

16 GROSS WEIGHTS ALLOWABLE UNDER THE FORMULA CONTAINED IN THE FEDERAL WEIGHT LAW
17 ENACTED JANUARY 4, 1975, THAT ARE APPLICABLE TO VEHICLES OR COMBINATIONS
18 THEREOF IN ARKANSAS

19

20

$$FORMULA W = 500 \left[\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right]$$

21

22 Except that two (2) consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of
23 thirty-four thousand pounds (34,000 lbs.) each, providing that the overall
24 distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem
25 axles is thirty-six feet (36') or more.

26 W-maximum weight in pounds carried on any group of two (2) or more axles
27 computed to the nearest five hundred pounds (500 lbs.).

28 L-distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two (2) or more
29 consecutive axles.

30 N-number of axles in group under consideration.

31

32 Distance in feet between the	Maximum load in pounds carried
33 extremes of any group of 2	on any group of 2 or more
34 or more consecutive axles	consecutive axles

35

	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
1			
2 33			74,000
3 34			74,500
4 35			75,000
5 36			75,500
6 37			76,000
7 38			77,000
8 39			77,500
9 40			78,000
10 41		73,500	78,500
11 42		74,000	79,000
12 43		75,000	80,000
13 44		75,500	80,000
14 45		76,000	80,000
15 46		76,500	80,000
16 47	73,500	77,500	80,000
17 48	74,000	78,000	80,000
18 49	74,500	78,500	80,000
19 50	75,500	79,000	80,000
20 51	76,000	80,000	80,000
21 52	76,500	80,000	80,000
22 53	77,500	80,000	80,000
23 54	78,000	80,000	80,000
24 55	78,500	80,000	80,000
25 56	79,000	80,000	80,000
26 57	80,000	80,000	80,000

27 (2) (A) If the Federal Highway Administration or the United States
28 Congress prescribes or adopts vehicle size or weight limits greater than those
29 prescribed by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 which limits exceed, in full
30 or in part, the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of this
31 section, the State Highway Commission shall adopt size and weight limits
32 comparable to those prescribed or adopted by the Federal Highway
33 Administration or the United States Congress and shall authorize the limits to
34 be used by owners or operators of vehicles while the vehicles are using
35 highways within this state.

1 (B) No vehicle size or weight limit so adopted by the
2 commission shall be less in any respect than those provided for in subsections
3 (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of this section."
4

5 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
6 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
7 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.
8

9 SECTION 4. If any provisions of this act or the application thereof to
10 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect
11 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
12 the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this
13 act are declared to be severable.
14

15 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
16 hereby repealed.
17

18 SECTION 6. Emergency. It is hereby found and determined by the
19 Seventy-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that unless
20 subsections (b) and (e) of Arkansas Code § 27-35-203 are amended, thus
21 insuring that Arkansas laws are compatible with federal laws and regulations,
22 federal-aid highway funds accruing to this state will be withheld; that such
23 federal-aid highway funds are essential to the highway, road, and street
24 programs of this state; and that in the event of an extension of the 1991
25 Regular Session, the delay of the effective date of this act could work
26 irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of these
27 essential highway, road, and street programs. Therefore, an emergency is
28 hereby declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, shall be in full force
30 and effect from and after its passage and approval.

31 /s/ Doug Wood
32

33 APPROVED: 4/8/91
34