

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 640 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2430

5 By: Representative Abernathy
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND VEHICLE WEIGHT REGULATIONS; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO AMEND VEHICLE WEIGHT
13 REGULATIONS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-35-203(c) is amended to read as follows:

20 (c) Maximum Weight on Front or Steering Axle.

21 (1)(A) The maximum weight imposed on the highway by the front or
22 steering axle of a vehicle shall not exceed ~~twelve thousand pounds (12,000~~
23 ~~lbs.)~~ the amount of the manufacturer's Axle Weight Rating for the front or
24 steering axle or twenty thousand pounds (20,000 lbs.), whichever is less. If
25 the vehicle has no plate attached by the manufacturer providing the axle and
26 gross weight ratings, the maximum weight allowed for the front or steering
27 axle shall be twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.).

28 (B) The combined maximum weight imposed on the highway by
29 a front or steering axle and any adjacent axle whose centers may be included
30 between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced more than forty inches
31 (40") and not more than ninety-six inches (96") apart, shall not exceed
32 twenty thousand pounds (20,000 lbs.).

33 ~~(B)~~(C) A "front or steering axle", for the purposes of
34 this subsection, shall be defined as an axle attached to the front of the
35 vehicle and which is utilized to steer the vehicle on a given path or



1 direction.

2 ~~(2)(A) The Director of State Highways and Transportation may~~
 3 ~~issue special permits for a maximum single front steering axle weight not to~~
 4 ~~exceed eighteen thousand pounds (18,000 lbs.) and a maximum tandem front~~
 5 ~~steering axle weight of not to exceed thirty two thousand pounds (32,000~~
 6 ~~lbs.) for vehicles of special design, equipment, or construction, engaged in~~
 7 ~~occasional or specialized heavy hauling, such as, but not limited to, hauling~~
 8 ~~of heavy machinery, commodities which require specialized equipment, oil or~~
 9 ~~gas field equipment, or similar equipment, for a period of not more than one~~
 10 ~~(1) year, upon application containing satisfactory proof that the vehicles~~
 11 ~~are used solely for the above purposes.~~

12 ~~(B) Permits may contain such limitations as the director~~
 13 ~~may deem necessary for safety, including, but not limited to, speed of~~
 14 ~~operation.~~

15 ~~(3) The permits authorized under this subsection shall apply~~
 16 ~~only to the front steering axle and shall not affect the requirement of § 27-~~
 17 ~~35-210 that special permits be obtained for vehicles exceeding other maximum~~
 18 ~~size or weight limitations imposed in this subchapter.~~

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20 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-35-203(d) is amended to read as follows:

21 (d)(1) Subject to the limit upon the weight imposed upon the highway
 22 through any one (1) axle as set forth in subsections (a)-(c) of this section,
 23 no vehicle, or combination of vehicles, shall be operated upon the highways
 24 of this state when the gross weight is in excess of eighty thousand pounds
 25 (80,000 lbs.).

26 ~~(2)(A) The foregoing maximum gross weights shall be applicable~~
 27 ~~to vehicles, or combinations of vehicles, operated on highways in this state~~
 28 ~~that are a part of the federal interstate highway system or that have been~~
 29 ~~designated by the State Highway Commission as primary highways.~~

30 ~~(B) On all other highways in this state, the maximum gross~~
 31 ~~weight of any vehicles, or combinations thereof, shall not exceed sixty four~~
 32 ~~thousand pounds (64,000 lbs.).~~

33 ~~(3)(A) However, vehicles, or any combination of vehicles, of a~~
 34 ~~gross weight in excess of sixty four thousand pounds (64,000 lbs.) and not in~~
 35 ~~excess of seventy three thousand two hundred eighty pounds (73,280 lbs.) may~~
 36 ~~operate upon the secondary highways of the state at a speed not in excess of~~

1 ~~forty (40) miles per hour.~~

2 ~~(B) Vehicles, or any combination of vehicles, of a gross~~
 3 ~~weight in excess of seventy three thousand two hundred eighty pounds (73,280~~
 4 ~~lbs.) and not in excess of eighty thousand pounds (80,000 lbs.) operating on~~
 5 ~~the secondary highways of the state shall also be limited to a maximum speed~~
 6 ~~of forty (40) miles per hour.~~

7 ~~(4)(2)~~ Greater gross weights than permitted may be authorized by
 8 special permit issued by competent authority as authorized by law, or lesser
 9 gross weights will be required when highways are posted.

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 11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-35-203(i) is amended to read as follows:

12 (i)(1) ~~Vehicles, or combinations of vehicles,~~ A truck tractor and
 13 single semi-trailer combination with five (5) axles hauling sand, gravel,
 14 rock, or crushed stone and vehicles or combinations of vehicles with five (5)
 15 axles hauling unfinished and unprocessed farm products, forest products, or
 16 other products of the soil shall be exempt from the federal bridge formula
 17 found in subsection (e) of this section on noninterstate highways in this
 18 state.

19 (2)(A) ~~Vehicles, or combinations of vehicles,~~ A truck tractor
 20 and single semi-trailer combination with five (5) axles hauling sand, gravel,
 21 rock, or crushed stone shall comply with a tandem axle limit of thirty-four
 22 thousand pounds (34,000 lbs.) and a single axle limit of twenty thousand
 23 pounds (20,000 lbs.) provided that the total gross weight shall not exceed
 24 eighty thousand pounds (80,000 lbs.).

25 (B) Vehicles, or combinations of vehicles, with five (5)
 26 axles hauling unfinished and unprocessed farm products, forest products, or
 27 other products of the soil shall comply with a tandem axle limit of thirty-
 28 six thousand five hundred pounds (36,500 lbs.) and a single axle limit of
 29 twenty thousand pounds (20,000 lbs.) provided that the total gross weight
 30 shall not exceed eighty-five thousand pounds (85,000 lbs.).

31 (C) Provided, no tandem axle shall exceed thirty-four
 32 thousand pounds (34,000 lbs.) while operated on the federal interstate
 33 highways of this state.

34 (3) No vehicle, or combination of vehicles, meeting all of the
 35 requirements of this subsection, shall be allowed any variance on overall
 36 gross weight or axle weight while operating on the federal interstate

1 highways.

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3 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-35-203(j) is repealed.

4 ~~(j) Any operator found violating the provisions of subsection (d)~~
5 ~~prohibiting the operation of vehicles, or combination of vehicles, of a gross~~
6 ~~weight in excess of sixty four thousand pounds (64,000 lbs.) and not in~~
7 ~~excess of eighty thousand pounds (80,000 lbs.) upon the secondary highways of~~
8 ~~the state at a speed in excess of forty (40) miles per hour, or any owner,~~
9 ~~principal, employer, lessor, lessee, agent, or officer of any firm or~~
10 ~~corporation who permits such operator to violate these provisions, shall be~~
11 ~~guilty of a misdemeanor as prescribed in § 27-35-202 and shall, in addition,~~
12 ~~pay a penalty, to be computed as prescribed in § 27-35-202, for all weight~~
13 ~~loads in excess of sixty four thousand pounds (64,000 lbs.).~~

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15 APPROVED: 3/28/2007

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