

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

A Bill

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."

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

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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."

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

"(e) (1) No vehicle, or combination of vehicles, shall operate upon any highway in this state when the total gross load imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one single axle of such vehicle or combination exceeds 18,000 pounds, nor when the total gross load imposed on the highway by two (2) or more consecutive axles of any such vehicle or combination of vehicles whose centers may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced more than forty inches (40") and not more than ninety-six inches (96") apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, exceeds thirty-two thousand pounds (32,000 lbs.) nor when the total gross weight of the vehicle, or combination of vehicles thereof, is in excess of seventy-three thousand two hundred eighty pounds (73,280 lbs.) unless the vehicle, or combination thereof, shall not exceed the value given in Table I corresponding to the distance in feet between the extreme axles of the group, measured longitudinally to the nearest foot.

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Table I

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

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

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

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

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

N-number of axles in group under consideration.

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Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles

Maximum load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles

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2		4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
3	33			74,000
4	34			74,500
5	35			75,000
6	36			75,500
7	37			76,000
8	38			77,000
9	39			77,500
10	40			78,000
11	41		73,500	78,500
12	42		74,000	79,000
13	43		75,000	80,000
14	44		75,500	80,000
15	45		76,000	80,000
16	46		76,500	80,000
17	47	73,500	77,500	80,000
18	48	74,000	78,000	80,000
19	49	74,500	78,500	80,000
20	50	75,500	79,000	80,000
21	51	76,000	80,000	80,000
22	52	76,500	80,000	80,000
23	53	77,500	80,000	80,000
24	54	78,000	80,000	80,000
25	55	78,500	80,000	80,000
26	56	79,000	80,000	80,000
27	57	80,000	80,000	80,000

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

1 highways within this state.

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

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

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

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

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

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/s/ Doug Wood

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