

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.

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2430

4  
5 By: Representative Abernathy

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO AMEND VEHICLE WEIGHT  
14 REGULATIONS.

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

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  
36 direction.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32           ~~(3)(A) However, vehicles, or any combination of vehicles, of a~~  
 33 ~~gross weight in excess of sixty four thousand pounds (64,000 lbs.) and not in~~  
 34 ~~excess of seventy three thousand two hundred eighty pounds (73,280 lbs.) may~~  
 35 ~~operate upon the secondary highways of the state at a speed not in excess of~~  
 36 ~~forty (40) miles per hour.~~

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

6                   ~~(4)(2)~~ Greater gross weights than permitted may be authorized by  
 7 special permit issued by competent authority as authorized by law, or lesser  
 8 gross weights will be required when highways are posted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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