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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 83—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA MOTOR  
TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION)

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning certain motor vehicles. (BDR 43-85)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; prohibiting the use of certain devices for braking in certain circumstances; requiring that regulations adopted by the Department of Transportation concerning combinations of vehicles in excess of 70 feet in length be consistent with certain federal requirements; eliminating the limitation on the maximum fee which may be charged for a permit for a combination of vehicles in excess of 80,000 pounds; repealing certain provisions relating to alternative limitations on the weight of a trailer or semitrailer; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1     **Section 1.** Chapter 484 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2     thereto a new section to read as follows:  
3     ***1. The driver of a vehicle which is equipped with a device for***  
4     ***braking that uses the compression of the engine of the vehicle may***  
5     ***use the device at any time if:***  
6     ***(a) The device is equipped with an operational muffler; or***



\* A B 8 3 \*

1       ***(b) The driver reasonably believes that an emergency requires***  
2 ***the use of the device to protect the physical safety of a person or***  
3 ***others from an immediate threat of physical injury or to protect***  
4 ***against an immediate threat of damage to property.***

5       ***2. The driver of a vehicle which is equipped with a device for***  
6 ***braking that uses the compression of the engine of the vehicle***  
7 ***shall not use the device in any circumstances other than those***  
8 ***described in subsection 1.***

9       ***3. A person who violates the provisions of this section is***  
10 ***guilty of a misdemeanor.***

11       **Sec. 2.** NRS 484.739 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12       484.739 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the  
13 length of a bus may not exceed 45 feet and the length of a  
14 motortruck may not exceed 40 feet.

15       2. A passenger bus which has three or more axles and two  
16 sections joined together by an articulated joint with a trailer which is  
17 equipped with a mechanically steered rear axle may not exceed a  
18 length of 65 feet.

19       3. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4, 7 and 9, no  
20 combination of vehicles, including any attachments thereto coupled  
21 together, may exceed a length of 70 feet.

22       4. The Department of Transportation, by regulation, shall  
23 provide for the operation of combinations of vehicles in excess of 70  
24 feet in length . ~~[, but in no event exceeding 105 feet.]~~ The  
25 regulations must establish standards for the operation of such  
26 vehicles which must be consistent with their safe operation upon the  
27 public highways and ***with the provisions of 23 C.F.R. § 658.23.***  
28 ***Such standards*** must include:

29       (a) Types and number of vehicles to be permitted in  
30 combination;

31       (b) Horsepower of a motortruck;

32       (c) Operating speeds;

33       (d) Braking ability; and

34       (e) Driver qualifications.

35 The operation of such vehicles is not permitted on highways where,  
36 in the opinion of the Department of Transportation, their use would  
37 be inconsistent with the public safety because of a narrow roadway,  
38 excessive grades, extreme curvature or vehicular congestion.

39       5. Combinations of vehicles operated under the provisions of  
40 subsection 4 may, after obtaining a special permit issued at the  
41 discretion of, and in accordance with procedures established by, the  
42 Department of Transportation, carry loads not to exceed the values  
43 set forth in the following formula:  $W=500 [LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36]$ ,  
44 wherein:



1 (a) W equals the maximum load in pounds carried on any group  
2 of two or more consecutive axles;

3 (b) L equals the distance in feet between the extremes of any  
4 group of two or more consecutive axles; and

5 (c) N equals the number of axles in the group under  
6 consideration.

7 The distance between axles must be measured to the nearest foot. If  
8 a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the next largest whole number  
9 must be used. The permits may be restricted in such manner as the  
10 Department of Transportation considers necessary and may, at the  
11 option of the Department, be canceled without notice. No such  
12 permits may be issued for operation on any highway where that  
13 operation would prevent this state from receiving federal money for  
14 highway purposes.

15 6. Upon approving an application for a permit to operate  
16 combinations of vehicles pursuant to subsection 5, the Department  
17 of Transportation shall withhold issuance of the permit until the  
18 applicant has furnished proof of compliance with the provisions of  
19 NRS 706.531.

20 7. The load upon any motor vehicle operated alone, or the load  
21 upon any combination of vehicles, must not extend beyond the front  
22 or the rear of the vehicle or combination of vehicles for a distance of  
23 more than 10 feet, or a total of 10 feet both to the front or the rear,  
24 and a combination of vehicles and load thereon may not exceed a  
25 total of 75 feet without having secured a permit pursuant to  
26 subsection 4 or NRS 484.737. The provisions of this subsection do  
27 not apply to the booms or masts of shovels, cranes or water well  
28 drilling and servicing equipment carried upon a vehicle if:

29 (a) The booms or masts do not extend by a distance greater than  
30 two-thirds of the wheelbase beyond the front tires of the vehicle.

31 (b) The projecting structure or attachments thereto are securely  
32 held in place to prevent dropping or swaying.

33 (c) No part of the structure which extends beyond the front tires  
34 is less than 7 feet from the roadway.

35 (d) The driver's vision is not impaired by the projecting or  
36 supporting structure.

37 8. Lights and other warning devices which are required to be  
38 mounted on a vehicle pursuant to this chapter must not be included  
39 in determining the length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles  
40 and the load thereon.

41 9. This section does not apply to:

42 (a) Vehicles used by a public utility for the transportation of  
43 poles;

44 (b) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor  
45 drawing a semitrailer that does not exceed 53 feet in length;



1 (c) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor  
2 drawing a semitrailer and a trailer, neither of which exceeds 28 1/2  
3 feet in length; or

4 (d) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor  
5 drawing no more than three saddle-mounted vehicles and one full-  
6 mounted vehicle that does not exceed 75 feet in length.

7 10. As used in this section:

8 (a) "Full-mounted vehicle" means a smaller vehicle mounted  
9 completely on the frame of a saddle-mounted vehicle.

10 (b) "Saddle-mounted vehicle" means a vehicle forming part of a  
11 combination of vehicles used in a driveway-towaway operation  
12 that is connected by a saddle mount to the frame or fifth-wheel  
13 coupling of the vehicle in front of it.

14 **Sec. 3.** NRS 484.745 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 484.745 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS ~~484.746,~~  
16 484.748 and 484.7485, a vehicle may be operated or moved upon  
17 any public highway if:

18 (a) The maximum weight on any single axle does not exceed  
19 20,000 pounds.

20 (b) The maximum weight on any tandem axle does not exceed  
21 34,000 pounds.

22 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the maximum  
23 overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles  
24 does not exceed the values set forth in the following formula:  
25  $W=500 [LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36]$  wherein:

26 (1) W equals the maximum load in pounds carried on any  
27 group of two or more consecutive axles;

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

30 (3) N equals the number of axles in the group under  
31 consideration.

32 2. Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load  
33 of 34,000 pounds each if the distance between the first and last axles  
34 of the consecutive sets of axles is 36 feet or more.

35 **Sec. 4.** NRS 484.752 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 484.752 1. The provisions of NRS 484.745 ~~and 484.746,~~ do  
37 not apply to any highway which is a part of the Federal-Aid Primary  
38 System, Federal-Aid Urban System, Federal-Aid Secondary System  
39 or Interstate System if their application would prevent this state  
40 from receiving any federal funds for highway purposes under  
41 section 127 of Title 23, U.S.C.

42 2. The Department of Transportation, with respect to highways  
43 under its jurisdiction, and the governing bodies of cities and  
44 counties, with respect to roads and streets under their jurisdiction,  
45 after determining that use by vehicles otherwise conforming with



1 the maximum weight limits prescribed in NRS 484.745 ~~for 484.746~~  
2 is likely to cause substantial stress to any highway, road, street, or  
3 portion or structure thereof, may, by proper notice, fix a reduced  
4 maximum weight limit for vehicles which may pass over any such  
5 highway, road, street, or portion or structure thereof.

6 **Sec. 5.** NRS 706.531 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 706.531 1. The Department of Transportation shall approve  
8 an application for a permit pursuant to the provisions of subsection 5  
9 of NRS 484.739. The permit must be carried and displayed in such a  
10 manner as the Department determines on every combination so  
11 operating. The permit issued may be transferred from one  
12 combination to another, under such conditions as the Department  
13 may by regulation prescribe, but must not be transferred from one  
14 person or operator to another without prior approval of the  
15 Department. The permit may be used only on motor vehicles  
16 regularly licensed pursuant to the provisions of NRS 482.482.

17 2. The annual fee for each permit for a combination of vehicles  
18 is \$60 for each 1,000 pounds or fraction thereof of gross weight in  
19 excess of 80,000 pounds. ~~["The maximum fee must not exceed~~  
20 ~~\$2,940."]~~ The fee must be reduced one-twelfth for each month that  
21 has elapsed since the beginning of each calendar year, rounded to  
22 the nearest dollar, but must not be less than \$50. The annual fee for  
23 each permit for a combination of vehicles not exceeding 80,000  
24 pounds is \$10. The fee must be paid in addition to all other fees  
25 required by the provisions of this chapter.

26 3. Any person operating a combination of vehicles licensed  
27 pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 ~~["]~~ who is apprehended  
28 operating a combination in excess of the gross weight for which the  
29 fee in subsection 2 has been paid is, in addition to all other penalties  
30 provided by law, liable for the difference between the fee for the  
31 load being carried and the fee paid, for the full licensing period.

32 4. Any person apprehended operating a combination of  
33 vehicles without having complied with the provisions of NRS  
34 484.739 and this section is, in addition to all other penalties  
35 provided by law, liable for the payment of the fee which would be  
36 due pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 for the balance of the  
37 calendar year for the gross load being carried at the time of  
38 apprehension.

39 5. The holder of an original permit may, upon surrendering the  
40 permit to the Department or upon delivering to the Department a  
41 signed and notarized statement that the permit was lost or stolen and  
42 such other documentation as the Department may require, apply to  
43 the Department:



- 1 (a) For a refund of an amount equal to that portion of the fees
- 2 paid for the permit that is attributable, on a pro rata monthly basis,
- 3 to the remainder of the calendar year; or
- 4 (b) To have that amount credited against excise taxes due
- 5 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 366 of NRS.
- 6 **Sec. 6.** NRS 484.746 is hereby repealed.

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**TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION**

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**484.746 Alternative limitations on weight for trailer or semitrailer.**

- 1. The provisions of this section apply only to vehicles which contain a trailer or a semitrailer. Each vehicle contained in this combination must comply with the provisions of this section or with the provisions of NRS 484.745.
- 2. The maximum weight on any single axle must not exceed 18,000 pounds.
- 3. The total gross weight with load imposed on the highway by any group of two or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or of a combination of vehicles where the distance between the first and last axles of the two or more consecutive axles is 18 feet or less, must not exceed that given for the respective distances in the following table:

Distance in Feet Between First and Last Axles of Group	Allowed Load in Pounds on Group of Axles
4.....	32,000
5.....	32,000
6.....	32,200
7.....	32,900
8.....	33,600
9.....	34,300
10.....	35,000
11.....	35,700
12.....	36,400
13.....	37,100
14.....	43,200
15.....	44,000



16.....	44,800
17.....	45,600
18.....	46,400

4. The total gross weight with load imposed on the highway by any vehicle or combination of vehicles where the distance between the first and last axles is more than 18 feet must not exceed that given for the respective distances in the following table:

Distance in Feet	Allowed Load in Pounds
19.....	47,200
20.....	48,000
21.....	48,800
22.....	49,600
23.....	50,400
24.....	51,200
25.....	55,250
26.....	56,100
27.....	56,950
28.....	57,800
29.....	58,650
30.....	59,500
31.....	60,350
32.....	61,200
33.....	62,050
34.....	62,900
35.....	63,750
36.....	64,600
37.....	65,450
38.....	66,300
39.....	68,000
40.....	70,000
41.....	72,000
42.....	73,280
43.....	73,280
44.....	73,280
45.....	73,280
46.....	73,280
47.....	73,280
48.....	73,280
49.....	73,280
50.....	73,280
51.....	73,280



52.....	73,600
53.....	74,400
54.....	75,200
55.....	76,000
56 or over.....	76,800

