

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.

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***
5 ***shall not use the device at any time unless:***
6 ***(a) The device is equipped with an operational muffler; or***



* A B 8 3 R 1 *

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. A person who violates the provisions of this section is***
6 ***guilty of a misdemeanor.***

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

8 484.739 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the
9 length of a bus may not exceed 45 feet and the length of a
10 motortruck may not exceed 40 feet.

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

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

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

25 (a) Types and number of vehicles to be permitted in
26 combination;

27 (b) Horsepower of a motortruck;

28 (c) Operating speeds;

29 (d) Braking ability; and

30 (e) Driver qualifications.

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

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

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

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



1 (c) N equals the number of axles in the group under
2 consideration.
3 The distance between axles must be measured to the nearest foot. If
4 a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the next largest whole number
5 must be used. The permits may be restricted in such manner as the
6 Department of Transportation considers necessary and may, at the
7 option of the Department, be canceled without notice. No such
8 permits may be issued for operation on any highway where that
9 operation would prevent this state from receiving federal money for
10 highway purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 9. This section does not apply to:

38 (a) Vehicles used by a public utility for the transportation of
39 poles;

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

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



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

4 10. As used in this section:

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

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

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

12 484.745 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS ~~484.746,~~
13 484.748 and 484.7485, a vehicle may be operated or moved upon
14 any public highway if:

15 (a) The maximum weight on any single axle does not exceed
16 20,000 pounds.

17 (b) The maximum weight on any tandem axle does not exceed
18 34,000 pounds.

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

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

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

27 (3) N equals the number of axles in the group under
28 consideration.

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

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

33 484.752 1. The provisions of NRS 484.745 ~~and 484.746,~~ do
34 not apply to any highway which is a part of the Federal-Aid Primary
35 System, Federal-Aid Urban System, Federal-Aid Secondary System
36 or Interstate System if their application would prevent this state
37 from receiving any federal funds for highway purposes under
38 section 127 of Title 23, U.S.C.

39 2. The Department of Transportation, with respect to highways
40 under its jurisdiction, and the governing bodies of cities and
41 counties, with respect to roads and streets under their jurisdiction,
42 after determining that use by vehicles otherwise conforming with
43 the maximum weight limits prescribed in NRS 484.745 ~~or 484.746~~
44 is likely to cause substantial stress to any highway, road, street, or
45 portion or structure thereof, may, by proper notice, fix a reduced



1 maximum weight limit for vehicles which may pass over any such
2 highway, road, street, or portion or structure thereof.

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

4 706.531 1. The Department of Transportation shall approve
5 an application for a permit pursuant to the provisions of subsection 5
6 of NRS 484.739. The permit must be carried and displayed in such a
7 manner as the Department determines on every combination so
8 operating. The permit issued may be transferred from one
9 combination to another, under such conditions as the Department
10 may by regulation prescribe, but must not be transferred from one
11 person or operator to another without prior approval of the
12 Department. The permit may be used only on motor vehicles
13 regularly licensed pursuant to the provisions of NRS 482.482.

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

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

29 4. Any person apprehended operating a combination of
30 vehicles without having complied with the provisions of NRS
31 484.739 and this section is, in addition to all other penalties
32 provided by law, liable for the payment of the fee which would be
33 due pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 for the balance of the
34 calendar year for the gross load being carried at the time of
35 apprehension.

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

41 (a) For a refund of an amount equal to that portion of the fees
42 paid for the permit that is attributable, on a pro rata monthly basis,
43 to the remainder of the calendar year; or



- 1 (b) To have that amount credited against excise taxes due
- 2 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 366 of NRS.
- 3 **Sec. 6.** NRS 484.746 is hereby repealed.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

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

