

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 427

Short Title: Wood Chip Hauling Weight Exemption.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hoyle; Jenkins and Martin of Pitt.

Referred to: Transportation.

March 19, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCLUDE WOOD CHIP TRANSPORTERS IN THE LIGHT DUTY
ROAD WEIGHT EXEMPTIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-118(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Exceptions. – The following exceptions apply to G.S. 20-118(b) and 20-118(e).

(1) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross weight of 34,000 pounds each without penalty provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more.

(2) When a vehicle is operated in violation of G.S. 20-118(b)(1), 20-118(b)(2), or 20-118(b)(3), but the gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed that permitted by G.S. 20-118(b)(3), the owner of the vehicle shall be permitted to shift the load within the vehicle, without penalty, from one axle to another to comply with the weight limits in the following cases:

a. Where the single-axle load exceeds the statutory limits, but does not exceed 21,000 pounds.

b. Where the vehicle or combination of vehicles has tandem axles, but the tandem-axle weight does not exceed 40,000 pounds.

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- 1 (3) When a vehicle is operated in violation of G.S. 20-118(b)(4) the owner
2 of the vehicle shall be permitted, without penalty, to shift the load
3 within the vehicle from one axle to another to comply with the weight
4 limits where the single-axle weight does not exceed the posted limit by
5 2,500 pounds.
- 6 (4) A truck or other motor vehicle shall be exempt from such light-traffic
7 road limitations provided for pursuant to G.S. 20-118(b)(4), when
8 transporting supplies, material or equipment necessary to carry out a
9 farming operation engaged in the production of meats and agricultural
10 crops and livestock or poultry by-products or a business engaged in the
11 harvest or processing of seafood when the destination of such vehicle
12 and load is located solely upon said light-traffic road.
- 13 (5) The light-traffic road limitations provided for pursuant to subdivision
14 (b)(4) of this section do not apply to a vehicle while that vehicle is
15 transporting only the following from its point of origin on a light-traffic
16 road to the nearest highway that is not a light-traffic road:
- 17 a. Processed or unprocessed seafood from boats or any other point
18 of origin to a processing plant or a point of further distribution.
- 19 b. Meats or agricultural crop products originating from a farm to
20 first market.
- 21 c. Unprocessed forest products originating from a farm or from
22 woodlands to first market.
- 23 d. Livestock or poultry from their point of origin to first market.
- 24 e. Livestock by-products or poultry by-products from their point of
25 origin to a rendering plant.
- 26 f. Recyclable material from its point of origin to a scrap-processing
27 facility for processing. As used in this subpart, the terms
28 'recyclable' and 'processing' have the same meaning as in G.S.
29 130A-290(a).
- 30 g. Garbage collected by the vehicle from residences or garbage
31 dumpsters if the vehicle is fully enclosed and is designed
32 specifically for collecting, compacting, and hauling garbage from
33 residences or from garbage dumpsters. As used in this subpart,
34 the term 'garbage' does not include hazardous waste as defined in
35 G.S. 130A-290(a), spent nuclear fuel regulated under G.S. 20-
36 167.1, low-level radioactive waste as defined in G.S. 104E-5, or
37 radioactive material as defined in G.S. 104E-5.
- 38 h. Wood chips from the point of origin to a facility for recycling or
39 processing.
- 40 (6) A truck or other motor vehicle shall be exempt from such light-traffic
41 road limitations provided by G.S. 20-118(b)(4) when such motor
42 vehicles are owned, operated by or under contract to a public utility,
43 electric or telephone membership corporation or municipality and such

1 motor vehicles are used in connection with installation, restoration or
2 emergency maintenance of utility services.

3 (7) A wrecker may tow a disabled vehicle or combination of vehicles in an
4 emergency to the nearest feasible point for parking or storage without
5 being in violation of G.S. 20-118 provided that the wrecker and towed
6 vehicle or combination of vehicles otherwise meet all requirements of
7 this section.

8 (8) A firefighting vehicle operated by any member of a municipal or rural
9 fire department in the performance of his duties, regardless of whether
10 members of that fire department are paid or voluntary and any vehicle
11 of a voluntary lifesaving organization, when operated by a member of
12 that organization while answering an official call shall be exempt from
13 such light-traffic road limitations provided by G.S. 20-118(b)(4).

14 (9) Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 761, s. 12.

15 (10) Fully enclosed motor vehicles designed specifically for collecting,
16 compacting and hauling garbage from residences, or from garbage
17 dumpsters shall, when operating for those purposes, be allowed a single
18 axle weight not to exceed 23,500 pounds on the steering axle on
19 vehicles equipped with a boom, or on the rear axle on vehicles loaded
20 from the rear. This exemption shall not apply to vehicles transporting
21 hazardous waste as defined in G.S. 130A-290(a)(8), spent nuclear fuel
22 regulated under G.S. 20-167.1, low-level radioactive waste as defined in
23 G.S. 104E-5(9a), or radioactive material as defined in G.S. 104E-5(14).

24 (11) A truck or other motor vehicle shall be exempt for light-traffic road
25 limitations issued under subdivision (b)(4) of this section when
26 transporting heating fuel for on-premises use at a destination located on
27 the light-traffic road.

28 (12) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle that
29 meets one of the following descriptions, is hauling agricultural crops
30 from the farm where they were grown to first market, is within 35 miles
31 of that farm, does not operate on an interstate highway while hauling the
32 crops, and does not exceed its registered weight:

33 a. Is a five-axle combination with a gross weight of no more than
34 88,000 pounds, a single-axle weight of no more than 22,000
35 pounds, a tandem-axle weight of no more than 42,000 pounds,
36 and a length of at least 51 feet between the first and last axles of
37 the combination.

38 b. Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 761, s. 13.

39 c. Is a four-axle combination with a gross weight that does not
40 exceed the limit set in subdivision (b)(3) of this section, a single-
41 axle weight of no more than 22,000 pounds, and a tandem-axle
42 weight of no more than 42,000 pounds."

43 Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.