

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE BILL 1214**  
**Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 6/29/10**

Short Title: Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Fine/Local Fees.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 19, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO MAKE CORRESPONDING CHANGES TO THE MOTOR VEHICLES LAWS  
2 TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS  
3 AND MAINTAIN FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
4 FUNDING FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL'S MOTOR CARRIER SECTION,  
5 TO REQUIRE DECLARED REGISTRATION LICENSE WEIGHT TO BE FOR THE  
6 MAXIMUM WEIGHT FOR ALL VEHICLES THAT ARE PROVIDED EXEMPTIONS  
7 UNDER G.S. 20-118, TO MODIFY THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL  
8 SUITS RELATED TO UNCOLLECTED CIVIL FINES THAT HAVE BEEN ASSESSED  
9 AND REMAIN OWED TO THE STATE CIVIL FINES AND FORFEITURES FUND,  
10 AND TO ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO REFUND UNUSED ASSESSMENTS.

11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 20-4.01. Definitions.**

14 Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this  
15 Chapter to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

16 ...

17  
18 (12b) Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). – The value specified by the  
19 manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight a vehicle is capable of safely  
20 hauling. The GVWR of a combination vehicle is the GVWR of the power  
21 unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units. When a vehicle is  
22 determined by an enforcement officer to be structurally altered in any way  
23 from the manufacturer's original design in an attempt to increase the hauling  
24 capacity of the vehicle, the GVWR of that vehicle shall be deemed to be the  
25 greater of the license weight or the total weight of the vehicle or  
26 combination of vehicles for the purpose of enforcing this Chapter. For the  
27 purpose of classification of commercial drivers license and skills testing, the  
28 manufacturer's GVWR shall be used.

29 (12c) Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR). – Defined in 49 C.F.R. §  
30 390.5.

31 (12d) Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). – The total weight of a vehicle, including  
32 passengers, fuel, cargo, and attachments.

33 (12e) Gross Combined Weight (GCW). – The total weight of a combination  
34 (articulated) motor vehicle, including passengers, fuel, cargo, and  
35 attachments.

36 ~~(12e)~~(12f) Hazardous Materials. – Any material that has been designated as  
37 hazardous under 49 U.S.C. § 5103 and is required to be placarded under



1 Subpart F of Part 172 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (~~4~~  
2 ~~October 2007 Edition~~), or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent  
3 or toxin under Part 73 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal ~~Regulations~~ (~~4~~  
4 ~~October 2007 Edition~~)-Regulations.

5 ...."

6 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-96 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 "(c) The authority of a law enforcement officer to seize a motor vehicle pursuant to  
8 subsection (a) of this section shall not be affected by the statutes of limitations set out in  
9 Chapter 1 of the North Carolina General Statutes."

10 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-118(c) reads as rewritten:

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

12 ...

13 (12) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle that meets all  
14 of the conditions set out below:

- 15 a. Is hauling agricultural crops from the farm where the crop is grown  
16 to any market within 150 miles of that farm.  
17 b. Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 761, s. 13.  
18 b1. Does not operate on an interstate highway or exceed any posted  
19 bridge weight limits during transportation or hauling of agricultural  
20 products.  
21 c. Does not exceed a single-axle weight of 22,000 pounds, a  
22 tandem-axle weight of 42,000 pounds, or a gross weight of 90,000  
23 pounds.  
24 d. Is registered pursuant to G.S. 20-88 for the maximum weight allowed  
25 for the vehicle configuration as listed in subsection (b) of this  
26 section.

27 ...

28 (14) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle that meets all  
29 of the conditions below, but all other enforcement provisions of this Article  
30 remain applicable:

- 31 a. Is hauling aggregates from a distribution yard or a State-permitted  
32 production site located within a North Carolina county contiguous to  
33 the North Carolina State border to a destination in another state  
34 adjacent to that county as verified by a weight ticket in the driver's  
35 possession and available for inspection by enforcement personnel.  
36 b. Does not operate on an interstate highway or exceed any posted  
37 bridge weight limits.  
38 c. Does not exceed 69,850 pounds gross vehicle weight and 53,850  
39 pounds per axle grouping for tri-axle vehicles. For purposes of this  
40 subsection, a tri-axle vehicle is a single power unit vehicle with a  
41 three consecutive axle group on which the respective distance  
42 between any two consecutive axles of the group, measured  
43 longitudinally center to center to the nearest foot, does not exceed  
44 eight feet. For purposes of this subsection, the tolerance provisions of  
45 subsection (h) of this section do not apply, and vehicles must be  
46 licensed in accordance with G.S. 20-88.  
47 d. Repealed by Session Laws 2001-47, s. 10, effective December 16,  
48 2001.  
49 e. Is registered pursuant to G.S. 20-88 for the maximum weight allowed  
50 for the vehicle configuration as listed in subsection (b) of this  
51 section.

1 (15) Subsections (b) and (e) of this section do not apply to a vehicle or vehicle  
2 combination that meets all of the conditions below, but all other enforcement  
3 provisions of this Article remain applicable:

- 4 a. Is hauling wood residuals, including wood chips, sawdust, mulch, or  
5 tree bark from any site; is hauling raw logs to first market; or is  
6 transporting bulk soil, bulk rock, sand, sand rock, or asphalt millings  
7 from a site that does not have a certified scale for weighing the  
8 vehicle.
- 9 b. Does not operate on an interstate highway, a posted light-traffic road,  
10 except as provided by subdivision (c)(5) of this section, or exceed  
11 any posted bridge weight limits.
- 12 c. Does not exceed a maximum gross weight 4,000 pounds in excess of  
13 what is allowed in subsection (b) of this section.
- 14 d. Does not exceed a single-axle weight of more than 22,000 pounds  
15 and a tandem-axle weight of more than 42,000 pounds.
- 16 e. Is registered pursuant to G.S. 20-88 for the maximum weight allowed  
17 for the vehicle configuration as listed in subsection (b) of this  
18 section."

19 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-196.4 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 20-196.4. Oversized and hazardous shipment escort fee.**

21 (a) Every person, firm, corporation, or entity required by the North Carolina  
22 Department of Transportation or any federal agency or commission to have a law enforcement  
23 escort provided by the State Highway Patrol for the transport of any oversized load or  
24 hazardous shipment by road or rail shall pay to the Department of Crime Control and Public  
25 Safety a fee covering the full cost to administer, plan, and carry out the escort within this State.

26 (b) If the State Highway Patrol provides an escort to accompany the transport of  
27 oversized loads or hazardous shipments by road or rail at the request of any person, firm,  
28 corporation, or entity that is not required to have a law enforcement escort pursuant to  
29 subsection (a) of this section, then the requester shall pay to the Department of Crime Control  
30 and Public Safety a fee covering the full cost to administer, plan, and carry out the escort within  
31 this State.

32 ~~(c) The Department of Crime Control and Public Safety shall comply with the~~  
33 ~~provisions of G.S. 12-3.1(a)(2) when establishing fees to implement this section.~~  
34 ~~A fee established under this section is subject to G.S. 12-3.1. The full cost of an escort includes costs~~  
35 ~~for vehicle or equipment maintenance required before or after an escort to ensure the visibility~~  
36 ~~and safety of the law enforcement escort and the motoring public.~~

37 (d) ~~All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be placed in a special Escort Fee~~  
38 ~~Account and shall remain unencumbered and unexpended until appropriated by the General~~  
39 ~~Assembly Account. Revenue in the account is annually appropriated to the Department to~~  
40 ~~reimburse the Department for its expenses in providing escorts under this section.~~

41 ~~(e) The Department shall report quarterly on the funds in the special account to the~~  
42 ~~Chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, to the Chairs of the House~~  
43 ~~of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and the Senate~~  
44 ~~Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Transportation, and to the Chairs of the Senate~~  
45 ~~and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety."~~

46 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-376(5) reads as rewritten:

47 "(5) Intrastate motor carrier. – Any person, firm, or corporation that operates or  
48 controls a ~~commercial~~ motor vehicle as defined in G.S. 20-4.01(3d) in  
49 ~~intrastate commerce~~ in intrastate commerce when the vehicle:

- 50 a. Is a vehicle having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross  
51 combination weight rating (GCWR) or gross vehicle weight (GVW)

- 1                                    or gross combination weight (GCW) of 26,001 pounds or more,
- 2                                    whichever is greater.
- 3                                    b. Is designed or used to transport 16 or more passengers, including the
- 4                                    driver.
- 5                                    c. Is used in transporting a hazardous material in a quantity requiring
- 6                                    placarding pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Parts 170 through 185."

7                    **SECTION 6.** G.S. 1-52 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

8                    "(20) Upon a liability for a civil penalty, civil assessment, or civil fine imposed

9                    pursuant to Chapter 20 of the General Statutes."

10                   **SECTION 7.** A local government that imposed an assessment prior to 2005 to

11 finance a capital project that has been assumed by another unit of local government may return

12 unused assessments to the person that paid the assessment.

13                   **SECTION 8.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2010.