

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 368
Commerce Committee Substitute Adopted 4/22/09
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 5/7/09
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House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/2/09
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 7/20/09

Short Title: Various Changes in Motor Vehicle Laws.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 4, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS, AS
3 REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIME CONTROL AND PUBLIC
4 SAFETY.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-79.4(b)(104) reads as rewritten:

7 "(104) Retired State Highway Patrol. – The plate authorized by this subdivision
8 shall bear the phrase "SHP, Retired." The Division may not issue the plate
9 authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for
10 the plate. The plate is issuable to one of the following:

- 11 a. An individual who has retired from the North Carolina State
12 Highway Patrol.Patrol, presenting to the Division, along with the
13 application for the plate, a copy of the retiree's retired identification
14 card or letter of retirement.
15 b. The surviving spouse of a person who had ~~a retired highway patrol~~
16 ~~plate at the time of death so long as the surviving spouse continues to~~
17 ~~renew the plate and does not remarry~~ retired from the State Highway
18 Patrol who, along with the application for the plate, presents a copy
19 of the deceased retiree's identification card or letter of retirement and
20 certifies in writing that the retiree is deceased and that the applicant
21 is not remarried.
22 e. ~~The surviving spouse of a person who qualified for a retired highway~~
23 ~~patrol plate so long as the surviving spouse applies for the plate~~
24 ~~within ninety (90) days of the qualifying spouse's death and does not~~
25 ~~remarry."~~

26 SECTION 2.(a) Part 12 of Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is
27 amended by adding a new section to read:

28 "§ 20-178.1. Payment and review of civil penalty imposed by Department of Crime
29 Control and Public Safety.

30 (a) Procedure. – A person who is assessed a civil penalty under this Article by the
31 Department of Crime Control and Public Safety must pay the penalty within 30 calendar days
32 after the date the penalty was assessed or make a written request within this time limit to the



1 Department for a Departmental review of the penalty. A person who does not submit a request
2 for review within the required time waives the right to a review and hearing on the penalty.

3 (b) Department Review. – Any person who denies liability for a penalty imposed by the
4 Department may request an informal review by the Secretary of the Department or the
5 Secretary's designee. The request must be made in writing and must contain sufficient
6 information for the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, to determine the specific basis upon
7 which liability is being challenged. Upon receiving a request for informal review, the Secretary,
8 or the Secretary's designee, shall review the record and determine whether the penalty was
9 assessed in error. If, after reviewing the record, the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee,
10 determines that the assessment or a portion thereof was not issued in error, the penalty must be
11 paid within 30 days of the notice of decision.

12 (c) Judicial Review. – Any person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Secretary
13 and who has paid the penalty in full within 30 days of the notice of decision, as required by
14 subsection (b) of this section, may, within 60 days of the decision, bring an action for refund of
15 the penalty against the Department in the Superior Court of Wake County or in the superior
16 court of the county in which the civil penalty was assessed. The court shall review the
17 Secretary's decision and shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law. The hearing shall
18 be conducted by the court without a jury. In reviewing the case, the court shall not give
19 deference to the prior decision of the Secretary. A superior court may award attorneys' fees to a
20 prevailing plaintiff only upon a showing of bad faith on the part of the Department, and any
21 order for attorneys' fees must be supported by findings of fact and conclusions of law.

22 (d) Interest. – Interest accrues on a penalty that is overdue. A penalty is overdue if it is
23 not paid within the time required by this section. Interest is payable on a penalty assessed in
24 error from the date the penalty was paid. The interest rate set in G.S. 105-241.21 applies to
25 interest payable under this section.

26 (e) The clear proceeds of all civil penalties assessed by the Department pursuant to this
27 Article, minus any fees paid as interest, filing fees, attorneys' fees, or other necessary costs of
28 court associated with the defense of penalties imposed by the Department pursuant to this
29 Article shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with
30 G.S. 115C-457.2."

31 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 20-382.2 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 20-382.2. Penalty for failure to comply with registration or insurance verification**
33 **requirements.**

34 ...

35 (b) ~~Payment.~~Payment and Review. – When the Department of Crime Control and
36 Public Safety finds that a for-hire motor vehicle is operated in this State in violation of the
37 registration and insurance verification requirements of this Part, the Department must place the
38 motor vehicle ~~shall be placed~~ out of service until the motor carrier is in compliance and the
39 penalty imposed under this section is paid unless the officer that imposes the penalty
40 determines that operation of the motor vehicle will not jeopardize collection of the penalty. A
41 motor carrier that denies liability for a penalty imposed under this section may pay the penalty
42 under protest and ~~apply to the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety for a~~
43 ~~hearing.~~follow the procedure in G.S. 20-178.1 for a departmental review of the penalty.

44 (c) ~~Hearing.~~Judicial Restriction. – Upon receiving a request for a hearing, the Secretary
45 of Crime Control and Public Safety shall ~~schedule a hearing within 30 days after receipt of the~~
46 request. If after the hearing the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety determines that
47 the motor carrier was not liable for the penalty, the amount collected shall be refunded. If after
48 the hearing the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety determines that the motor
49 carrier was liable for the penalty, the motor carrier may bring an action in the Superior Court of
50 Wake County against the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety for refund of the
51 penalty. A court of this State may not issue a restraining order or an injunction to restrain or

1 enjoin the collection of ~~the a penalty imposed under this section~~ or to permit the operation of
2 ~~the a vehicle placed out of service under this section~~ without payment of the penalty.

3"

4 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-101(b) reads as rewritten:

5 "(b) ~~A motor vehicle that is not subject to 49 C.F.R. Part 390, has a gross vehicle weight~~
6 ~~rating of more than 10,000 pounds, but less than 26,001 pounds, and is used in intrastate~~
7 ~~commerce, and is not a farm vehicle, as further described in G.S. 20-118(c)(4), (c)(5), or~~
8 ~~(c)(12), shall have the name of the owner printed on the side of the vehicle in letters not less~~
9 ~~than three inches in height. A motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than~~
10 10,000 pounds that is used in intrastate commerce shall have the name of the owner printed on
11 each side of the vehicle in letters not less than three inches in height, unless either of the
12 following applies:

13 (1) The motor vehicle is subject to 49 C.F.R. Part 390.

14 (2) The motor vehicle is a farm vehicle as further described in
15 G.S. 20-118(c)(4), (c)(5), or (c)(12)."

16 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-117 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 20-117. Flag or light at end of load.**

18 (a) General Provisions. – Whenever the load on any vehicle shall extend more than four
19 feet beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof, there shall be displayed at the end of such load,
20 in such position as to be clearly visible at all times from the rear of such load, a red or orange
21 flag not less than ~~12-18~~ inches both in length and width, except that from sunset to sunrise there
22 shall be displayed at the end of any such load a red or amber light plainly visible under normal
23 atmospheric conditions at least 200 feet from the rear of such vehicle. At no time shall a load
24 extend more than 14 feet beyond the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle, with the exception
25 of vehicles transporting forestry products or utility poles.

26 (b) Commercial Motor Vehicles. – A commercial motor vehicle, or a motor vehicle
27 with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more that is engaged in commerce, that is being used to tow
28 a load or that has a load that protrudes from the rear or sides of the vehicle shall comply with
29 the provisions of 49 C.F.R. Part 393."

30 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-122.1 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 20-122.1. Motor vehicles to be equipped with safe tires.**

32 (a) Every motor vehicle subject to safety equipment inspection in this State and
33 operated on the streets and highways of this State shall be equipped with tires which are safe
34 for the operation of the motor vehicle and which do not expose the public to needless hazard.
35 Tires shall be considered unsafe if cut so as to expose tire cord, cracked so as to expose tire
36 cord, or worn so as to expose tire cord or there is a visible tread separation or chunking or the
37 tire has less than two thirty-seconds inch tread depth at two or more locations around the
38 circumference of the tire in two adjacent major tread grooves, or if the tread wear indicators are
39 in contact with the roadway at two or more locations around the circumference of the tire in
40 two adjacent major tread grooves: Provided, the two thirty-seconds tread depth requirements of
41 this section shall not apply to dual wheel trailers. ~~Provided further that as to trucks owned by~~
42 ~~farmers and operated exclusively in the carrying and transportation of the owner's farm~~
43 ~~products which are approved for daylight use only and which are equipped with dual wheels,~~
44 ~~the tread depth requirements of this section shall not apply to more than one wheel in each set~~
45 ~~of dual wheels.~~ For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

46 (1) "Chunking" – separation of the tread from the carcass in particles which may
47 range from very small size to several square inches in area.

48 (2) "Cord" – strands forming a ply in a tire.

49 (3) "Tread" – portion of tire which comes in contact with road.

50 (4) "Tread depth" – the distance from the base of the tread design to the top of
51 the tread.

1 (a1) Any motor vehicle that has a GVWR of at least 10,001 pounds or more and is
2 operated on the streets or highways of this State shall be equipped with tires that are safe for the
3 operation of the vehicle and do not expose the public to needless hazard. A tire is unsafe if any
4 of the following applies:

- 5 (1) It is cut, cracked, or worn so as to expose tire cord.
6 (2) There is a visible tread separation or chunking.
7 (3) The steering axle tire has less than four thirty-seconds inch tread depth at
8 any location around the circumference of the tire on any major tread groove.
9 (4) Any nonsteering axle tire has less than two thirty-seconds inch tread depth
10 around the circumference of the tire in any major tread groove.
11 (5) The tread wear indicators are in contact with the roadway at any location
12 around the circumference of the tire on any major tread groove.

13 (b) The driver of any vehicle who is charged with a violation of this section shall be
14 allowed 15 calendar days within which to bring the tires of such vehicle in conformance with
15 the requirements of this section. It shall be a defense to any such charge that the person arrested
16 produce in court, or submit to the prosecuting attorney prior to trial, a certificate from an
17 official safety inspection equipment station showing that within 15 calendar days after such
18 arrest, the tires on such vehicle had been made to conform with the requirements of this section
19 or that such vehicle had been sold, destroyed, or permanently removed from the highways.
20 Violation of this section shall not constitute negligence per se."

21 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 20-118(e)(3) reads as rewritten:

22 "(3) If an axle-group weight of a vehicle exceeds the weight limit set in
23 subdivision (b)(3) of this section plus any tolerance allowed in subsection (h)
24 of this section or axle-group weights or gross weights authorized by special
25 permit under G.S. 20-119(a), the Department of Crime Control and Public
26 Safety shall assess a civil penalty against the owner or registrant of the
27 motor vehicle. The penalty shall be assessed on the number of pounds by
28 which the axle-group weight exceeds the limit set in subdivision
29 ~~(b)(3)~~, (b)(3) of this section, or by a special permit issued pursuant to
30 G.S. 20-119, as follows: for the first 2,000 pounds or any part thereof, two
31 cents (2¢) per pound; for the next 3,000 pounds or any part thereof, four
32 cents (4¢) per pound; for each pound in excess of 5,000 pounds, ten cents
33 (10¢) per pound. Tolerance pounds in excess of the limit set in subdivision
34 (b)(3) are subject to the penalty if the vehicle exceeds the tolerance allowed
35 in subsection (h) of this section. These penalties apply separately to each
36 axle-group weight limit violated. Notwithstanding any provision to the
37 contrary, a vehicle with a special permit that is subject to additional penalties
38 under this subsection based on a violation of any of the permit restrictions
39 set out in G.S. 20-119(d1) shall be assessed a civil penalty, not to exceed ten
40 thousand dollars (\$10,000), based on the number of pounds by which the
41 axle-group weight exceeds the limit set in subdivision (b)(3) of this section."

42 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 20-119(d) reads as rewritten:

43 "(d) For each violation of any of the terms or conditions of a special permit issued or
44 where a permit is required but not obtained under this section the Department of Crime Control
45 and Public Safety ~~may~~ shall assess a civil penalty for each violation against the registered
46 owner of the vehicle as follows:

47 (1) A fine of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for operating without
48 the proper number of certified escorts as determined by the actual loaded
49 weight or size of the vehicle combination.

50 ~~(1)~~(1a) A fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for any of the following: operating
51 without the issuance of a permit, moving a load off the route specified in the

1 permit, falsifying information to obtain a permit, or failing to comply with
 2 dimension restrictions of a permit.~~permit, or failing to comply with the~~
 3 ~~number of properly certified escort vehicles required.~~

4 (2) A fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for moving loads beyond the
 5 distance allowances of an annual permit covering the movement of house
 6 trailers from the retailer's premises or for operating in violation of time of
 7 travel restrictions.

8 (3) A fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for any other violation of the permit
 9 conditions or requirements imposed by applicable regulations.

10 The Department of Transportation may refuse to issue additional permits or suspend
 11 existing permits if there are repeated violations of subdivision ~~(1)-(1), (1a),~~ or (2) of this
 12 subsection. ~~In addition to the penalties provided by this subsection, a civil penalty in~~
 13 ~~accordance with G.S. 20-118(e)(1) and (3) may be assessed if a vehicle is operating without the~~
 14 ~~issuance of a required permit, operating off permitted route of travel, operating without the~~
 15 ~~proper number of certified escorts as determined by the actual loaded weight of the vehicle~~
 16 ~~combination, fails to comply with travel restrictions of the permit, or operating with improper~~
 17 ~~license. Fees assessed for permit violations under this subsection shall not exceed a maximum~~
 18 ~~of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000)."~~

19 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 20-119 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

20 "(d1) In addition to the penalties assessed under subsection (d) of this section, the
 21 Department of Crime Control and Public Safety shall assess a civil penalty, not to exceed ten
 22 thousand dollars (\$10,000), in accordance with G.S. 20-118(e)(1) and (e)(3) against the
 23 registered owner of the vehicle for any of the following:

24 (1) Operating without the issuance of a required permit.

25 (2) Operating off permitted route of travel.

26 (3) Failing to comply with travel restrictions of the permit.

27 (4) Operating without the proper vehicle registration or license for the class of
 28 vehicle being operated.

29 A violation of this subsection constitutes operating a vehicle without a special permit."

30 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 20-381(a)(2a) reads as rewritten:

31 "(2a) To prohibit the use by a motor carrier of any motor vehicle or motor vehicle
 32 equipment the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety ~~finds~~ finds,
 33 by reason of its mechanical condition or loading, would be likely to cause a
 34 crash or breakdown unsafe for use in the transportation of passengers or
 35 property on a highway. If an agent of the Department of Crime Control and
 36 Public Safety finds a motor vehicle of a motor carrier in actual use upon the
 37 highways in the transportation of passengers or property that, by reason of
 38 its mechanical condition or loading, would be likely to cause a crash or
 39 breakdown, to be unsafe or any parts thereof or any equipment thereon to be
 40 unsafe and is of the opinion that further use of such vehicle, parts or
 41 equipment are imminently dangerous, the agent shall declare the vehicle
 42 "Out of Service." The agent shall~~may~~ require the operator thereof to
 43 discontinue its use and to substitute therefor a safe vehicle, parts or
 44 equipment at the earliest possible time and place, having regard for both the
 45 convenience and the safety of the passengers or property. When an inspector
 46 or agent stops a motor vehicle on the highway, under authority of this
 47 section, and the motor vehicle is declared "Out of Service," no motor carrier
 48 operator shall require, or permit, any person to operate, nor shall any person
 49 operate, any motor vehicle equipment declared "Out of Service" until all
 50 repairs required by the "Out of Service" notice have been satisfactorily
 51 completed.~~in operative condition and its further movement is not dangerous~~

1 to the passengers or property or to the users of the highways, it shall be the
 2 duty of the inspector or agent to guide the vehicle to the nearest point of
 3 substitution or correction of the defect. Such agents or inspectors shall also
 4 have the right to stop any motor vehicle which is being used upon the public
 5 highways for the transportation of passengers or property by a motor carrier
 6 subject to the provisions of this Article and to eject therefrom any driver or
 7 operator who shall be operating or be in charge of such motor vehicle while
 8 under the influence of alcoholic beverages or impairing substances. It shall
 9 be the duty of all inspectors and agents of the Department of Crime Control
 10 and Public Safety to make a written report, upon a form prescribed by the
 11 Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, of inspections of all motor
 12 equipment and a copy of each such written report, disclosing defects in such
 13 equipment, shall be served promptly upon the motor carrier operating the
 14 same, either in person by the inspector or agent or by mail. Such agents and
 15 inspectors shall also make and serve a similar written report in cases where a
 16 motor vehicle is operated in violation of this Chapter or, if the motor vehicle
 17 is subject to regulation by the North Carolina Utilities Commission, of
 18 Chapter 62 of the General Statutes."

19 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 20-124(e1) reads as rewritten:

20 "(e1) Every motor truck and ~~tractor-truck~~truck-tractor with semitrailer attached, shall be
 21 equipped with brakes acting on all wheels, except trucks and truck-tractors having three or
 22 more axles need not have brakes on the front wheels, ~~except that when such vehicles are~~
 23 ~~equipped with at least two steerable axles, the wheels of one steerable axle need not have~~
 24 ~~brakes.~~wheels if manufactured prior to July 25, 1980. However, such trucks and truck-tractors
 25 must be capable of complying with the performance requirements of G.S. 20-124(e)."

26 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 20-124(g) reads as rewritten:

27 "(g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to ~~any a trailer or semitrailer~~ when
 28 used by a farmer, ~~his a farmer's~~ tenant, agent, or employee ~~under such circumstances that such if~~
 29 ~~the trailer or semitrailer~~ is exempt from registration by the provisions of G.S. 20-51. This
 30 exemption does not apply to trailers that are equipped with brakes from the manufacturer and
 31 that are manufactured after October 1, 2009."

32 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 20-135.2A(c)(8) reads as rewritten:

33 "(8) A ~~driver or~~ passenger of a residential garbage or recycling truck while the
 34 truck is operating during collection rounds, ~~and while traveling to and from~~
 35 ~~garbage and recycling material loading and unloading locations.~~rounds."

36 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 20-136.1 reads as rewritten:

37 "**§ 20-136.1. Location of ~~television viewers.~~television, computer, or video players,**
 38 **monitors, and screens.**

39 No person shall drive any motor vehicle upon a public street or highway or public vehicular
 40 area equipped with any television viewer, screen, or other means of visually receiving a
 41 television broadcast while viewing any television, computer, or video player which is located in
 42 the motor vehicle at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat, ~~or and~~ which is visible to
 43 the driver while operating the motor vehicle. This section does not apply to the use of global
 44 positioning systems; turn-by-turn navigation displays or similar navigation devices;
 45 factory-installed or aftermarket global positioning systems or wireless communications devices
 46 used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system; equipment that displays
 47 audio system information, functions, or controls, or weather, traffic, and safety information;
 48 vehicle safety or equipment information; or image displays that enhance the driver's view in
 49 any direction, inside or outside of the vehicle. The provisions of this section shall not apply to
 50 law enforcement or emergency personnel while in the performance of their official duties, or to
 51 the operator of a vehicle that is lawfully parked or stopped."

1 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 20-382.2(d) reads as rewritten:

2 "(d) Proceeds. – A penalty imposed under this section is payable to the Department of
3 ~~Crime Control and Public Safety-Transportation, Fiscal Section. Penalties collected under this~~
4 ~~section shall be credited to the Highway Fund as nontax revenue.~~The clear proceeds of all civil
5 penalties assessed by the Department pursuant to this section, minus any fees paid as interest,
6 filing fees, attorneys' fees, or other necessary costs of court associated with the defense of
7 penalties imposed pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture
8 Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2."

9 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 146-30 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 "**(b2)** Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no service charge into the State
11 Land Fund shall be deducted from or levied against the proceeds of any disposition by lease,
12 rental, or easement of State lands purchased and owned by the North Carolina State Highway
13 Patrol, Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, as part of the Voice Interoperability
14 Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) project being managed by the North Carolina State
15 Highway Patrol, Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. All net proceeds of these
16 dispositions shall be deposited into an account created in the Department of Crime Control and
17 Public Safety to be used only for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, or supporting the
18 VIPER network."

19 **SECTION 16.(a)** G.S. 20-118(c) reads as rewritten:

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

21 ...

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

- 25 a. Is hauling aggregates from a distribution yard or a State-permitted
26 production site located within a North Carolina county contiguous to
27 the North Carolina State border to a destination in another state
28 adjacent to that county as verified by a weight ticket in the driver's
29 possession and available for inspection by enforcement personnel.
- 30 b. Does not operate on an interstate highway or ~~posted bridge~~ exceed
31 any posted bridge weight limits.
- 32 c. Does not exceed 69,850 pounds gross vehicle weight and 53,850
33 pounds per axle grouping for tri-axle vehicles. For purposes of this
34 subsection, a tri-axle vehicle is a single power unit vehicle with a
35 three consecutive axle group on which the respective distance
36 between any two consecutive axles of the group, measured
37 longitudinally center to center to the nearest foot, does not exceed
38 eight feet. For purposes of this subsection, the tolerance provisions of
39 subsection (h) of this section do not apply, and vehicles must be
40 licensed in accordance with G.S. 20-88.
- 41 d. Repealed by Session Laws 2001-487, s. 10, effective December 16,
42 2001.

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

- 46 a. Is hauling wood residuals, including wood chips, sawdust, mulch, or
47 tree bark from any site; is hauling raw logs to first market; or is
48 transporting bulk soil, bulk rock, sand, sand rock, or asphalt millings
49 from a site that does not have a certified scale for weighing the
50 vehicle.

- 1 b. Does not operate on an interstate highway, a posted light-traffic road,
2 except as provided by subdivision (c)(5) of this section, or ~~a posted~~
3 ~~bridge-exceed any posted bridge weight limits.~~
4 c. Does not exceed a maximum gross weight 4,000 pounds in excess of
5 what is allowed in subsection (b) of this section.
6 d. Does not exceed a single-axle weight of more than 22,000 pounds
7 and a tandem-axle weight of more than 42,000 pounds."

8 **SECTION 16.(b)** G.S. 20-118(h) reads as rewritten:

9 "(h) Tolerance. – A vehicle may exceed maximum and the inner axle-group weight
10 limitations set forth in subdivision (b)(3) of this section by a tolerance of ten percent (10%).
11 This exception does not authorize a vehicle to exceed either the single-axle or tandem-axle
12 weight limitations set forth in subdivisions (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section, or the maximum
13 gross weight limit of 80,000 pounds. This exception does not apply to ~~bridges posted~~ a vehicle
14 exceeding posted bridge weight limitations as posted under G.S. 136-72 or to vehicles
15 operating on interstate highways. The tolerance allowed under this subsection does not
16 authorize the weight of a vehicle to exceed the weight for which that vehicle is licensed under
17 G.S. 20-88. No tolerance on the single-axle weight or the tandem-axle weight provided for in
18 subdivisions (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section shall be granted administratively or otherwise. The
19 Department of Transportation shall report back to the Transportation Oversight Committee and
20 to the General Assembly on the effects of the tolerance granted under this section, any abuses
21 of this tolerance, and any suggested revisions to this section by that Department on or before
22 May 1, 1998."

23 **SECTION 17.** Sections 1, 6, 14, and 15 of this act are effective when this act
24 becomes law. The remaining sections of this act become effective October 1, 2009, and apply
25 to civil penalties assessed and offenses committed on or after that date.