

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1640

BY: BASTIN

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROHIBITING
CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS OF VEHICLE SUSPENSION
SYSTEMS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; DEFINING TERMS;
PROVIDING PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-1114 of Title 47, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this section:

1. "Frame" means the main longitudinal structural members of
the chassis of the vehicle or, for a vehicle with unitized body
construction, the lowest main longitudinal structural members of the
body of the vehicle.

2. "Frame height" means the vertical distance between the
ground and the lowest point on the frame, measured when the vehicle
is unladen on a level surface at the lowest point on the frame
midway between the front axle and the second axle on the vehicle.

3. "GVWR" means the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating, whether or not the vehicle is modified by use of parts not originally installed by the manufacturer.

B. It shall be unlawful to operate a motor vehicle required to be registered in this state on any street or highway or for any vehicle to receive a certificate of inspection as required by Sections 851 through 858.1 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes if the body of the vehicle has been lifted from the chassis in excess of four (4) inches, or to cause the horizontal line from the front to the rear of the body to vary over eight (8) inches measured from a level surface to the lower edge of the body.

C. It shall be unlawful to operate any vehicle required to be registered in this state upon any street or highway or for any vehicle to receive a certificate of inspection as required by Sections 851 through 858.1 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes, if the vehicle has a frame height in excess of the maximum as set by this subsection. Maximum frame height shall be based on the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating. No vehicle may be modified to cause the vehicle body or chassis to come into contact with the ground, expose the fuel tank to damage from collision or cause the wheel to come in contact with the body under normal operations nor may any part of the original suspension system be disconnected. Maximum frame heights are as follows:

	<u>FRAME HEIGHT</u>
Automobiles	26 inches
Vehicles 4,500 and Under GVWR	28 inches
Vehicles 4,501 to 7,500 GVWR	30 inches
Vehicles 7,501 to 12,000 GVWR	32 inches

D. No part of the suspension system shall fall below the lower edge of the wheel rim.

E. Any motor vehicle originally equipped at the time of manufacture with bumpers or any other collision energy absorption or attenuation system shall be maintained in good operational condition, and no person shall remove, render inoperative, or disconnect the system. No owner shall cause or knowingly permit the removal or disconnection of any part of the system except temporarily in order to make repairs, replacements, or adjustments.

F. Nothing in subsection B or C of this section shall prevent the installation of equipment constructed to withstand severe or long usage or strain, commonly referred to as "heavy-duty equipment", including shock absorbers and overload springs, or prevent a person from operating a motor vehicle on a public way with normal wear of the suspension system if normal wear does not affect the control of the vehicle. Subsections B and C of this section shall not apply to motor vehicles designed or modified primarily for off-highway racing purposes while such vehicles are in tow or to motorcycles or motor-driven cycles.

G. Any person who violates any provision of this section, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided for in Section 17-101 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any ancient vehicle as defined by Section 1-101.1 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1991.

43-1-5740

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