

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL 691

By: Allen of the Senate

and

Frix of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to vehicle weight and load; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Sections 14-101, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 121, O.S.L. 2016 and 14-109, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 317, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Sections 14-101 and 14-109), which relate to certain penalties and axle and gross weights of certain vehicles; clarifying certain penalty; clarifying certain weights formula for permits for certain vehicles; providing penalties for operating certain vehicles or combination of vehicles in excess of certain weight limitations; establishing procedures for assessment of certain administrative penalty; directing deposit of certain fines; prohibiting issuance of conflicting bond schedule; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 14-101, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 121, O.S.L. 2016 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 14-101), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 14-101. A. It is a misdemeanor, punishable pursuant to
2 Section 14-109 of this title, for any person to drive or move or for
3 the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved on any
4 highway any vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the
5 limitations stated in this chapter or otherwise in violation of this
6 chapter, and the maximum size and weight of vehicles herein
7 specified shall be lawful throughout this state and local
8 authorities shall have no power or authority to alter the
9 limitations except as express authority may be granted in this
10 chapter.

11 B. The Commissioner of Public Safety is directed to issue
12 annual overweight permits to:

13 1. Municipalities and rural fire districts for the
14 transportation of firefighting apparatus at no cost to the
15 municipalities or rural fire districts;

16 2. Owners of implements of husbandry, which includes tractors
17 that are temporarily moved upon a highway at no cost to the owner;

18 3. Retail implement dealers while hauling implements of
19 husbandry at no cost to the dealer; and

20 4. Owners of certain vehicles as provided for in Section 14-
21 103G of this title.

22 C. If a vehicle is issued a license pursuant to Section 1134.4
23 of this title, the license shall also serve as the overweight permit
24 required by this section.

1 D. All size, weight and load provisions covered by this chapter
2 shall be subject to the limitations imposed by Title 23, United
3 States Code, Section 127, and such other rules and regulations
4 developed herein. Provided further that any size and weight
5 provision authorized by the United States Congress for use on the
6 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, including but
7 not limited to height, axle weight, gross weight, combinations of
8 vehicles or load thereon shall be authorized for immediate use on
9 such segments of the National System of Interstate and Defense
10 Highways and any other highways or portions thereof as designated by
11 the Transportation Commission or their duly authorized
12 representative.

13 E. All size, weight and load provisions covered by Sections 14-
14 101 through 14-123 of this title shall be subject to a gross vehicle
15 weight limit of ninety thousand (90,000) pounds when applied to a
16 vehicle operating off the National System of Interstate and Defense
17 Highways unless such vehicle is operating in full compliance with an
18 overweight permit issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

19 F. Any vehicle permitted for movement on the highways of this
20 state as provided in Section 14-101 et seq. of this title, other
21 than a vehicle permitted solely for overweight movement, shall be
22 moved only during daylight hours. As used in Section 14-101 et seq.
23 of this title, "daylight hours" shall mean one-half (1/2) hour
24 before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset. The

1 Commissioner of Public Safety, for good cause and consistent with
2 the safe movement of the vehicle, may endorse a permit for the
3 movement of an oversize vehicle to authorize ~~night-time~~ nighttime
4 travel under such terms and restrictions as the Commissioner may
5 require.

6 G. 1. Any vehicle permitted for movement on the highways of
7 this state as provided in Section 14-101 et seq. of this title shall
8 not be moved at any time on the following holidays:

- 9 a. New Year's Day (January 1),
- 10 b. Memorial Day (the last Monday in May),
- 11 c. The Fourth of July (Independence Day),
- 12 d. Labor Day (the first Monday in September),
- 13 e. Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November),
- 14 and
- 15 f. Christmas Day (December 25).

16 2. Any vehicle permitted for movement on the highways of this
17 state as provided in Section 14-101 et seq. of this title shall be
18 allowed to move on the following holidays:

- 19 a. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (the third Monday
20 in January),
 - 21 b. President's Day, also known as Washington's Birthday
22 (the third Monday in February), and
 - 23 c. Veteran's Day (November 11).
- 24

1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 14-109, as
2 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 317, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp.
3 2020, Section 14-109), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 14-109. A. On any road or highway:

5 1. No single axle weight shall exceed twenty thousand (20,000)
6 pounds; and

7 2. The total gross weight in pounds imposed thereon by a
8 vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed the value
9 calculated in accordance with the Federal Bridge formula imposed by
10 23 U.S.C., Section 127.

11 B. Except as to gross limits, the formula of this section shall
12 not apply to a truck-tractor and dump semitrailer when used as a
13 combination unit. In no event shall the maximum load in pounds
14 carried by any set of tandem axles exceed thirty-four thousand
15 (34,000) pounds. Any vehicle operating with split tandem axles or
16 tri-axles shall adhere to the formula.

17 C. Except for loads moving under special permits as provided in
18 this title, no department or agency of this state or any county,
19 city, or public entity thereof shall pay for any material that
20 exceeds the legal weight limits moving in interstate or intrastate
21 commerce in excess of the legal load limits of this state.

22 D. 1. An annual special overload permit may be purchased for
23 vehicles transporting rock, sand, gravel, coal, flour, timber,
24 pulpwood, and chips in their natural state, oil field fluids, oil

1 field equipment or equipment used in oil and gas well drilling or
2 exploration, and vehicles transporting grain, fertilizer,
3 cottonseed, cotton, livestock, peanuts, canola, sunflowers,
4 soybeans, feed, any other raw agricultural products, and any other
5 unprocessed agricultural products, if the following conditions are
6 met:

- 7 a. the vehicles are registered for the maximum allowable
8 rate,
- 9 b. the vehicles do not exceed five percent (5%) of the
10 gross limits set forth in subsection A of this
11 section,
- 12 c. the vehicles do not exceed eight percent (8%) of the
13 axle limits set forth in subsection A of this section,
- 14 d. no component of the vehicles exceeds the
15 manufacturer's component weight rating as shown on the
16 vehicle certification label or tag, and
- 17 e. the vehicles operating pursuant to the provisions of
18 this paragraph will not be allowed to operate on the
19 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

20 2. Vehicles operating pursuant to this section must register
21 for the maximum allowable rate and additionally shall purchase a
22 nontransferable annual special overload permit from the Department
23 of Public Safety for a fee of Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$350.00).
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1 All monies collected shall be deposited to the credit of the Highway
2 Construction and Maintenance Fund.

3 E. 1. Oversize or overweight vehicles used for specialized
4 transportation if the maximum weight does not exceed twenty-three
5 thousand (23,000) pounds on any single axle and:

6 a. is a dual lane trailer with dual lane axles and the
7 width of the transport vehicle or trailer exceeds
8 twelve (12) feet in width, or

9 b. the overall gross vehicle weight of a single trailer
10 meets or exceeds three hundred thousand (300,000)
11 pounds, originates or terminates at the Tulsa Port of
12 Catoosa, and the trip is confined within a thirty-mile
13 radius of the Port.

14 2. Permit fees for oversize or overweight vehicles used for
15 specialized transportation shall be in accordance with subsection A
16 of Section 14-116 of this title.

17 3. Vehicles operating pursuant to the provisions of this
18 paragraph will not be allowed to operate on the National System of
19 Interstate and Defense Highways.

20 F. Exceptions to this section will be:

21 1. Utility or refuse collection vehicles used by counties,
22 cities, or towns or by private companies contracted by counties,
23 cities, or towns if the following conditions are met:
24

- 1 a. calculation of weight for a utility or refuse
2 collection vehicle shall be "Gross Vehicle Weight".
3 The "Gross Vehicle Weight" of a utility or refuse
4 collection vehicle may not exceed the otherwise
5 applicable weight by more than fifteen percent (15%).
6 The weight on individual axles must not exceed the
7 manufacturer's component rating which includes axle,
8 suspension, wheels, rims, brakes, and tires as shown
9 on the vehicle certification label or tag, and
10 b. utility or refuse collection vehicles operated under
11 these exceptions will not be allowed to operate on
12 interstate highways;

13 2. A combination of a wrecker or tow vehicle and another
14 vehicle or vehicle combination if:

- 15 a. the service provided by the wrecker or tow vehicle is
16 needed to remove disabled, abandoned, or accident-
17 damaged vehicles, and
18 b. the wrecker or tow vehicle is towing the other vehicle
19 or vehicle combination directly to the nearest
20 appropriate place of repair, terminal, or vehicle
21 storage facility;

22 3. A vehicle operating pursuant to the provisions of paragraph
23 2 of this subsection will not be allowed to operate on the National
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1 System of Interstate and Defense Highways unless it is a covered
2 heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle that:

- 3 a. is transporting a disabled vehicle from the place
4 where the vehicle became disabled to the nearest
5 appropriate repair facility, and
- 6 b. has a gross vehicle weight that is equal to or exceeds
7 the gross vehicle weight of the disabled vehicle being
8 transported; and

9 4. On the interstate highway system a vehicle designed to be
10 used under emergency conditions to transport personnel and equipment
11 and to support the suppression of fires and mitigation of other
12 hazardous situations with a vehicle weight limit up to a maximum
13 gross vehicle weight of eighty-six thousand (86,000) pounds with
14 less than:

- 15 a. twenty-four thousand (24,000) pounds on a single
16 steering axle,
- 17 b. thirty-three thousand five hundred (33,500) pounds on
18 a single drive axle,
- 19 c. sixty-two thousand (62,000) pounds on a tandem axle,
20 or
- 21 d. fifty-two thousand (52,000) pounds on a tandem rear
22 drive steer axle.

23 G. 1. Any vehicle utilizing an auxiliary power or idle
24 reduction technology unit in order to promote reduction of fuel use

1 and emissions because of engine idling shall be allowed an
2 additional four hundred (400) pounds total to the total gross weight
3 limits set by this section.

4 2. To be eligible for the exception provided in this
5 subsection, the operator of the vehicle must obtain written proof or
6 certification of the weight of the auxiliary power or idle reduction
7 technology unit and be able to demonstrate or certify that the idle
8 reduction technology is fully functional.

9 3. Written proof or certification of the weight of the
10 auxiliary power or idle reduction technology unit must be available
11 to law enforcement officers if the vehicle is found in violation of
12 applicable weight laws. The additional weight allowed cannot exceed
13 four hundred (400) pounds or the actual proven or certified weight
14 of the unit, whichever is less.

15 H. On the Interstate Highway System, a vehicle carrying fluid
16 milk products shall be considered a load that cannot be easily
17 dismantled or divided, or "nondivisible".

18 I. Utility, refuse collection vehicles or a combination of a
19 wrecker or tow vehicle as described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of
20 subsection F of this section operating under exceptions shall
21 purchase an annual special overload permit from the Department of
22 Public Safety for One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). All monies
23 collected shall be deposited to the credit of the Highway
24 Construction and Maintenance Fund.

1 J. Any person who operates a vehicle or combination of vehicles
2 which is seven hundred fifty (750) pounds or more in excess of the
3 gross or axle weight limitations imposed by this section shall, upon
4 conviction of a misdemeanor or assessment of an administrative
5 penalty, be punished by a fine to be calculated from the amount of
6 weight in excess of the top weight limitation authorized as follows:

7 1. A fine of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), if overweight by
8 seven hundred fifty (750) pounds but not more than three thousand
9 (3,000) pounds;

10 2. A fine of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), if overweight
11 by three thousand one (3,001) pounds but not more than five thousand
12 (5,000) pounds;

13 3. A fine of Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$450.00), if overweight
14 by five thousand one (5,001) pounds but not more than seven thousand
15 (7,000) pounds;

16 4. A fine of Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$650.00), if overweight
17 by seven thousand one (7,001) pounds but not more than ten thousand
18 (10,000) pounds; and

19 5. A fine of ten cents (\$0.10) per pound overweight, if
20 overweight by ten thousand one (10,001) pounds or more.

21 K. Any person having more than one (1) conviction or assessment
22 of an administrative penalty as provided for in subsection J of this
23 section within the previous twelve (12) months shall be subject to
24 the following fines:

1 1. A second offense within one (1) year of any fine pursuant to
2 paragraphs 1 through 5 of subsection J of this section shall receive
3 a fine of one and one half (1 1/2) times the amount of the violation
4 cited; and

5 2. A third and all subsequent offenses within one (1) year of
6 any fine pursuant to paragraphs 1 through 5 of subsection J of this
7 section shall receive a fine of two (2) times the amount of the
8 violation cited.

9 L. If a person commits a violation of the provisions of this
10 section, or of Section 14-101 of this title, but is not convicted of
11 a misdemeanor, the Commissioner of Public Safety or designated
12 representative may assess an administrative penalty in an amount
13 authorized by this section, after notice to the violator and an
14 opportunity for hearing. An appeal of an assessment of the
15 administrative penalty may be made to the district court of Oklahoma
16 County pursuant to Sections 318 through 323 of Title 75 of the
17 Oklahoma Statutes. In no event shall a fine be imposed, in
18 compliance with this section, as both a criminal conviction and an
19 administrative penalty as a result of the same violation arising from
20 the same incident.

21 M. All fines collected pursuant to the provisions of subsection
22 J of this section shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the
23 credit of the Weigh Station Improvement Revolving Fund, as created in
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1 subsection E of Section 1167 of this title for the purpose of
2 enforcing size, weight and load laws of this state.

3 N. No state agency, board, commission or political subdivision
4 shall issue a bond schedule that conflicts with the provisions of
5 this section.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

7 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
8 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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