

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE BILL NO. 2274  
(Senators Nething, Espegard, Heitkamp)  
(Representatives Carlson, Hawken, Weiler)

AN ACT to create and enact two new sections to chapter 39-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to axles on a vehicle; to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 39-06.1-06 and sections 39-06.1-09, 39-12-02, 39-12-05.3, and 39-12-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to weight and size limitations and permits for vehicles; and to declare an emergency.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 39-06.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. For a moving violation as defined in section 39-06.1-09, a fee of twenty dollars, except for:
  - a. A violation of section 39-10-26, 39-10-26.2, 39-10-41, 39-10-42, 39-10-46, or 39-10-46.1, a fee of fifty dollars.
  - b. A violation of section 39-10-05 involving failure to yield to a pedestrian or subsection 1 of section 39-10-28, a fee of fifty dollars.
  - c. A violation of section 39-21-41.2, no fee may be imposed by the state, a city, or a county including a city or county operating under a home rule charter.
  - d. A violation of subsection ~~2~~ 1 of section 39-12-02, a fee of one hundred dollars.
  - e. A violation of subdivision d of subsection 1 of section 39-12-04, a fee of one hundred dollars.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-06.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**39-06.1-09. Moving violation defined.** For the purposes of sections 39-06.1-06 and 39-06.1-13, a "moving violation" means a violation of section 39-04-22; subsection 1 of section 39-04-37; section 39-04-55; 39-06-01; 39-06-14; 39-06-16; 39-09-04.1; 39-09-09; subsection ~~2~~ 1 of section 39-12-02; sections 39-12-04; 39-12-05; 39-12-06; 39-12-09; 39-24-02; or 39-24-09, except subdivisions b and c of subsection 5, or equivalent ordinances; or a violation of the provisions of chapter 39-10, 39-10.2, or 39-21, or equivalent ordinances, except subsection 4 of section 39-10-26, sections 39-21-44 and 39-21-45.1, and subdivision b of subsection 1 and subsection 2 of section 39-21-46, and those sections within those chapters which are specifically listed in subsection 1 of section 39-06.1-08.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-12-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**39-12-02. Special permits for vehicles of excessive size and weight issued - Contents - Fees.**

1. The highway patrol and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions, upon application and payment of the appropriate charges and for good cause shown, may issue a special written permit authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle, mobile home, or modular unit of a size or weight exceeding the maximum specified by this chapter, upon a highway under the jurisdiction of the body granting the permit. Every permit may designate

the route to be traversed and may contain any other restrictions or conditions deemed necessary by the body granting the permit. Every permit must be carried in the vehicle to which it refers and must be opened to inspection by any peace officer or agent of the superintendent of the highway patrol unless prior approval is obtained from the highway patrol. It is a violation of this chapter for any person to violate any of the terms or conditions of the permit. All permits for the movement of excessive size and weight on state highways must be for single trips only. The highway patrol and local authorities may adopt rules governing the movement of oversize and overweight vehicles.

- ~~2.~~ ~~A person operating a motor vehicle, or the owner of the motor vehicle being operated, without a permit as specified in subsection 1 must be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars.~~
- ~~3.~~ Upon any application for a permit to move a new manufactured building or modular unit from outside this state to be located anywhere within this state, the manufacturer is deemed to have certified that the new manufactured building or modular unit meets all applicable building codes and all applicable electrical wiring and equipment, plumbing, and fire standards. The state is not liable to any person for issuing a permit in violation of this subsection.
4. ~~3.~~ An appropriate charge must be made for each permit and all funds collected hereunder by the highway patrol must be deposited in the state highway fund for use in the construction and maintenance of highways and operating expenses of the department of transportation. Except for publicly owned vehicles that provide service beyond the agency's jurisdiction, official, publicly owned, emergency, or military vehicles are not subject to charges for permits. The minimum fee for selected charges is as follows:
  - a. The fee for the ten percent weight exemption, harvest and wintertime, is fifty dollars per month for fees paid on a monthly basis or two hundred fifty dollars per year for fees paid on a yearly basis. Unused fees paid on a monthly basis are refundable. Unused fees paid on a yearly basis are not refundable.
  - b. The fee for a non-self-issuing interstate permit is ten dollars per trip.
  - c. The fee for special mobile equipment is twenty-five dollars per trip.
  - d. The fee for engineering is twenty-five dollars per trip.
  - e. The fee for faxing a permit is five dollars.
  - f. The fee for a single trip permit is twenty dollars per trip.
  - g. The fee for a bridge length permit is thirty dollars per trip or one hundred fifty dollars per calendar year.
- ~~5.~~ ~~4.~~ The director of tax equalization of the county of destination must be furnished a copy of the permit for the movement of an overdimensional mobile home.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-12-05.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**39-12-05.3. Weight limitations for vehicles on highways other than the interstate system.**

1. A person may not operate on a highway that is not part of the interstate system any vehicle with a single axle that carries a gross weight in excess of twenty thousand pounds [9071.85 kilograms] or a wheel load over ten thousand pounds [4535.92 kilograms]. A wheel may not carry a gross weight over five hundred fifty pounds [249.48 kilograms] for each inch [2.54 centimeters] of tire width. Axles spaced forty inches [101.60 centimeters] apart or less are considered as one axle. On axles spaced over forty inches [101.60

centimeters] and under eight feet [2.44 meters] apart, the axle load may not exceed nineteen thousand pounds [8618.26 kilograms] per axle, with a maximum of thirty-four thousand pounds [15422.14 kilograms] gross weight on a tandem axle and a maximum of forty-eight thousand pounds [21772.32 kilograms] gross weight on any grouping of three or more axles. The wheel load, in any instance, may not exceed one-half the allowable axle load. Spacing between axles is measured from axle center to axle center.

2. Subject to the limitations imposed by subsection 1 on tires, wheel, and axle loads, a person may not operate on a highway that is not part of the interstate system any vehicle the gross weight of which exceeds that determined by the formula of:

$$W = 500 \left( \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

where W equals the maximum gross weight in pounds on any vehicle or combination of vehicles; L equals distance in feet between the two extreme axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles; and N equals the number of axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles under consideration. The gross weight on state highways may not exceed one hundred five thousand five hundred pounds [47854.00 kilograms] unless otherwise posted and on all other highways the gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand pounds [36287.39 kilograms] unless designated by local authorities for highways under their jurisdiction for gross weights not to exceed one hundred five thousand five hundred pounds [47854.00 kilograms]. Local authorities are encouraged to assess all roads under their jurisdiction and designate the roads for the appropriate weight limits allowed under this subsection.

3. The gross weight limitations in subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to equipment the director and the state highway patrol approve for exemption. The exemption may not exceed one hundred five thousand five hundred pounds [47854.00 kilograms]. For every vehicle approved for exemption the highway patrol shall issue a nontransferable permit valid for one year. The highway patrol may charge an administrative fee for the permit.
4. The director, and local authorities, as to the highways under their respective jurisdictions, may issue permits authorizing a specific motor vehicle to exceed the weight limitations stated in subsections 1 and 2 by ten percent. The permits may not provide for a gross weight in excess of one hundred five thousand five hundred pounds [47854.00 kilograms]. The permits must provide only for the movement of agricultural products from the field of harvest to the point of initial storage site, and for the collection and transport of solid wastes, during the period from July fifteenth to December first, and for the general movement of products during the period from December first to March seventh. The appropriate jurisdictional authority shall establish an appropriate fee for the permits and direct how they shall be issued. The highway patrol shall issue the permits authorized by the director.
5. The director, and local authorities, as to highways under their respective jurisdictions, may issue permits authorizing all vehicles carrying potatoes or sugar beets to exceed weight limitations stated in subsections 1 and 2 by ten percent during the period from July fifteenth to December first. The permits may not provide for a gross weight in excess of one hundred five thousand five hundred pounds [47854.00 kilograms]. The appropriate jurisdictional authority shall establish an appropriate fee for the permits and direct how they shall be issued. The highway patrol shall issue the permits authorized by the director.
6. The gross weight limitations in subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to movement of a self-propelled fertilizer spreader if the weight of a single axle does not exceed twenty-two thousand pounds [9979.03 kilograms] and does not exceed five hundred fifty pounds [249.48 kilograms] for each inch [2.54 centimeters] of tire width. The gross weight limitations in subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to movement of a self-propelled agricultural

chemical applicator if the weight of a single axle does not exceed twenty-two thousand pounds [19979.03 kilograms] and does not exceed five hundred fifty pounds [249.48 kilograms] for each inch [2.54 centimeters] of tire width. The highway patrol shall issue a seasonal permit for the commercial movement of vehicles exempted by this subsection. The seasonal permit issued under this subsection or under subdivision d of subsection 1 of section 39-12-04 entitles an individual with the permit to operate a vehicle as allowed by either of these provisions. A seasonal permit issued under this subsection is subject to the requirements of subdivision d of subsection 1 of section 39-12-04.

7. The weight limitations in subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to equipment the director and the state highway patrol approve for exemption but the weight limitations in section 39-12-05 do apply to that equipment. For every vehicle approved for exemption, the highway patrol shall issue a nontransferable bridge length permit valid for a single trip or a calendar year.

**SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-12-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**39-12-08. Penalty for violation of chapter.** Any A person violating any of the provisions of sections 39-12-04, 39-12-05, or 39-12-06 operating a motor vehicle or the owner of the motor vehicle being operated without a permit as specified in this chapter must be assessed a fee of ~~twenty~~ one hundred dollars. Any person violating any other provision of this chapter, for which a specific penalty is not provided, must be assessed a fee of ~~ten~~ twenty dollars. Violating the conditions of any permit type automatically voids the permit.

**SECTION 6.** Two new sections to chapter 39-21 of the North Dakota Century Code are created and enacted as follows:

**Retractable axle control requirements.**

1. For a motor vehicle manufactured after July 31, 2005, variable load suspension or retractable axles, or both, raised or lowered by air, hydraulic, or other pressure must have the lock or pressure regulator valve, or both, positioned outside the cab and inaccessible from the driver's compartment if there is more than one variable load suspension axle or retractable axle, or a combination of each.
2. The control to lift and lower a retractable or variable load suspension axle may be accessible in the driver's compartment, but also may not function as the pressure control device unless allowed by subsection 1.

**Requirement for steerable, castering, or pivoting axles.** A single unit vehicle or any vehicle in combination may not be equipped with more than four axles unless the additional axles are steerable, castering, or pivoting axles.

**SECTION 7. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2274 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas          46                  Nays          0                  Absent        1

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas          93                  Nays          1                  Absent        0

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005,

at \_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State