



HOUSE BILL 456: Clarify Weight Limits/Ag. Vehicles

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: House Transportation
Introduced by: Rep. R. Turner
Analysis of: PCS to First Edition
H456-CSRW-13

Date: April 20, 2015
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SUMMARY: *House Bill 456 (proposed committee substitute) authorizes a vehicle weight exception for certain movements of dairy products; and removes a farm vehicle restriction on an existing weight exception for water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, or animal waste.*

The proposed committee substitute extends the weight exception for transport of water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, or animal waste, to include travel farm to farm.

CURRENT LAW: Current law, G.S. 20-118 sets out the weight limits that apply to vehicles operating on the State's highways. State law specifies a standard weight limit for a single axle (20,000 lbs.), a tandem axle (38,000 lbs.), and for gross weight (up to 80,000 lbs., depending on the number of axles and distance between them).

State law also includes several exceptions to these general weight limits, authorizing higher weight limits in specified circumstances. One of those weight exceptions, in G.S. 20-118(c)(12)a.1. and 2., authorizes vehicles transporting the following products within 150 miles of their point of origin to operate with a single axle limit of 22,000 lbs., a tandem axle limit of 42,000 lbs., or a gross weight not to exceed 90,000 lbs:

- Agriculture crop products transported from a farm to a processing plant or market.
- Water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, or animal waste transported to or from a farm by a farm vehicle as defined in G.S. 20-37.16(e)(3).

The weight exception authorized does not apply to posted bridges, pursuant to G.S. 20-118(g), or to Interstate highways, pursuant to 23 C.F.R. § 658.17.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 456 amends the existing weight exception to:

- include dairy products in the agricultural crop products weight exception.
- removes the farm vehicle restriction for the weight exception for water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, or animal waste, and extends this exception for travel farm to farm.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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