



# HOUSE BILL 593: Restrict Truck Length Through Cullasaja Gorge.

2023-2024 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 3, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Gillespie	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kellette Wade
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 593 would make violations of the motor vehicle combination length restrictions in G.S. 20-115.1(a) and (b) on a certain segment of U.S. Route 64 in Macon County subject to the civil penalties for violating vehicle weight ratings.

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 20-115.1(a) provides that a trailer or semitrailer operated in combinations consisting of a truck tractor and two trailing units shall not exceed 28 feet in length, except for a 1982 or older year model trailer or semitrailer that may be 28 1/2 feet in length if operated in combination with a trailer(s) or semitrailer(s) that is 28 feet in length.

G.S. 20-115.1(b) provides that motor vehicle combinations consisting of a semitrailer may be operated on all primary highway routes of North Carolina if it is no more than 53 feet in length, unless otherwise provided and if various requirements are met.

G.S. 20-118(e) directs the Department of Public Safety to assess civil penalties against an owner or registrant of a vehicle in violation of vehicle weight ratings as follows: (i) four cents per pound for the first 1,000 pounds, (ii) six cents per pound for the next 1,000 pounds, and (iii) ten cents per pound for each additional pound thereafter.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 593 would make violations of the motor vehicle combination length restrictions in G.S. 20-115.1(a) and (b) on a certain segment of U.S. Route 64 in Macon County subject to the civil penalties for violating vehicle weight ratings.

The bill would apply the penalties to the amount by which the vehicle's gross weight exceeds 20,000 lbs.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective December 1, 2023, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



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Legislative Analysis  
Division  
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