



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

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b> Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b> May 2, 2024
<b>Introduced by:</b> Rep. Gillespie	<b>Prepared by:</b> Wendy Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b> Second Edition	Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 593 would provide an additional civil penalty for violating motor vehicle combination length restrictions on a designated road segment in Macon County.

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 20-115.1 provides length limitations for motor vehicle combinations consisting of truck tractors and tandem trailers or semitrailers. It further authorizes the Department of Transportation to provide for additional prohibitions on portions of any route on the State highway system if operation of a motor vehicle combination on the route cannot be safely accommodated.

The Department has adopted an ordinance applicable to a segment of US Route 64 between State Road 1533 and NC Highway 106 in Macon County prohibiting truck tractors with trailers longer than 30 feet. Violations are punishable under G.S. 20-115.1 as an infraction for the owner and a Class 3 misdemeanor for the driver with only a monetary penalty of \$100 if the semitrailer is less than 50 feet long and \$200 if the semitrailer is 50 feet or longer.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 593 would make violation of the motor vehicle combination length restrictions on the segment of US 64 between SR 1533 and NC 106 in Macon County subject to a civil penalty in addition to the penalty set out in G.S. 20-115.1.

The additional civil penalty would be assessed under G.S. 20-118(e), which provides monetary penalties for violations of vehicle weight limits, and would be calculated based on the amount by which the vehicle combination's gross vehicle weight rating exceeds 20,000 pounds. Penalties are assessed 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.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would become effective December 1, 2024, and would apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

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