

CHAPTER 110
MULTI-AXLE VEHICLES GROSS WEIGHT

S. F. 159

AN ACT relating to the gross weight and operation of certain multi-axle vehicles and combinations of vehicles subject to penalties provided by law.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 321.463, unnumbered paragraph 3, Code 1981, is amended to read as follows:

A group of two or more consecutive axles of any vehicle or combination of vehicles, shall not carry a load in pounds in excess of the overall gross weight determined by application of the following formula: W equals $500(LN/N-1 + 12N + 36)$ where, W equals the overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest five hundred pounds, L equals the distance in feet, rounded to the nearest whole foot, between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N equals the number of axles in the group under consideration, ~~except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.~~ The following are exceptions to application of the formula:

1. Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.

2. On highways not part of the interstate system, a vehicle or combination of vehicles having:

a. Four axles where the extreme axles are eighteen feet apart may carry a gross load of fifty-three thousand pounds.

b. Five axles where the extreme axles are thirty-two feet apart may carry a gross load of sixty-seven thousand five hundred pounds.

c. Six or more axles where the extreme axles are forty-one feet apart may carry a gross load of seventy-eight thousand pounds.

For every foot of distance between extreme axles less than the above axle spacings, the overall gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be determined by deducting one thousand pounds from the gross loads specified in paragraphs a, b, and c. All measurements between extreme axles shall be rounded to the nearest whole foot.

Sec. 2. Section 321.466, subsection 9, Code 1981, is amended by striking the subsection.

Sec. 3. Section 321.474, Code 1981, is amended to read as follows:

321.474 DEPARTMENT MAY RESTRICT. The department shall ~~likewise~~ have authority as ~~hereinabove~~ granted to local authorities to determine by resolution and to impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles, except farm tractors as defined in section 321.1, subsection 7, operated upon any highway under the jurisdiction of ~~said~~ the department and ~~such~~ the restrictions shall be effective when signs giving notice ~~thereof~~ of the restrictions are erected upon the highway or portion of any highway affected by ~~such~~ the resolution. Resolutions imposing restrictions under section 321.473 shall be for a definite period of time not to exceed twelve months. The expiration date of the resolution shall appear on all signs posted as required by this section.

For the purposes of restrictions imposed under this section, a triple axle is any group of three or more consecutive axles where the centers of any consecutive axles are more than forty inches apart and where the centers of the extreme axles are more than eighty-four inches apart but not more than one hundred sixty-eight inches apart. Where triple axle restrictions are imposed, the signs erected by the department shall give notice of the restrictions.

Any person who violates ~~the provisions~~ a provision of ~~such~~ the resolution ~~shall~~, upon conviction or a plea of guilty, ~~be~~ is subject to a fine determined by dividing the difference between the actual weight and the maximum weight established by the resolution by one hundred, and multiplying the quotient by two dollars. The department may issue special permits, during periods ~~such~~ the restrictions are in effect, to permit limited operation of vehicles upon specified routes with loads in excess of any restrictions imposed under this section, but not in excess of load restrictions imposed by ~~any other provision of~~ this chapter. The department shall issue special permits in accordance with the foregoing to trucks moving farm produce, which decays or loses its value if not speedily put to its intended use, to market upon a showing to the department that there is a requirement for trucking ~~such~~ the produce, or to trucks moving ~~to~~ any farm feeds or fuel necessary for home heating purposes.

Sec. 4. Section 805.8, subsection 2, paragraph 1, Code 1981, is amended to read as follows:

1. For height, weight, length, width and load violations and towed vehicle violations under sections 321.309, 321.310, 321.381, 321.394, 321.437, 321.454, 321.455, 321.456, 321.457, 321.458, 321.461, and 321.462 ~~and---321-474~~, the scheduled fine is twenty-five dollars. For weight violations under sections 321.459 and 321.466, the scheduled fine is twenty dollars for each two thousand pounds or fraction thereof of overweight.

Approved April 7, 1981