

# LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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## *LAWS of 1999*

**CHAPTER:** 29

**NJSA:** 39:3-84

(Tractors -- wheelbase length)

**BILL NO:**A1284

**SPONSOR(S):**DeCroce and Charles

**DATE INTRODUCED:** Pre-filed

**COMMITTEE:**

*ASSEMBLY:*Transportation

*SENATE:*Transportation

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**

*ASSEMBLY:*May 18, 1998

*SENATE:* January 12, 1999

**DATE OF APPROVAL:**February 26, 1999

### THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

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**FINAL TEXT OF BILL:** Original

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

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**A1284**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** *Yes* (Begins on page 10 of original bill)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**

**ASSEMBLY:***Yes*

**SENATE:***Yes*

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** *No*

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** *No*

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**GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS**

**VETO MESSAGE:** *No*

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** *Yes*

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**THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** *No*

**HEARINGS:** *No*

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** *No*

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P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 29, *approved February 26, 1999*

Assembly, No. 1284

1 AN ACT concerning truck dimensions and amending R.S.39:3-84.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. R.S.39:3-84 is amended to read as follows:

7 39:3-84. a. The following constitute the maximum dimensional  
8 limits for width, height and length for any vehicle or combination of  
9 vehicles, including load or contents or any part or portion thereof,  
10 found or operated on any public road, street or highway or any public  
11 or quasi-public property in this State. Violations shall be enforced  
12 pursuant to subsection i. of section 5 of P.L.1950, c.142  
13 (C.39:3-84.3).

14 The dimensional limitations set forth in this subsection are exclusive  
15 of safety and energy conservation devices necessary for safe and  
16 efficient operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles, including  
17 load or contents, except that no device excluded herein shall have by  
18 its design or use the capability to carry, transport or otherwise be  
19 utilized for cargo.

20 Any rules and regulations authorized to be promulgated pursuant  
21 to this subsection shall be consistent with any rules and regulations  
22 promulgated by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States  
23 of America, and shall be in accordance with the provisions of the  
24 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
25 seq.). In addition to the other requirements of this subsection and  
26 notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, no vehicle or  
27 combination of vehicles, including load or contents or any part or  
28 portion thereof, except as otherwise provided by this subsection shall  
29 be operated in this State, unless by special permit authorized by  
30 subsection d. of this section with a dimension, the allowance of which  
31 would disqualify the State of New Jersey or any department, agency  
32 or governmental subdivision thereof for the purpose of receiving  
33 federal highway funds.

34 As used herein and pursuant to R.S.39:1-1, the term "vehicle"  
35 includes, but is not limited to, commercial motor vehicles, trucks,  
36 truck tractors, tractors, road tractors, recreation vehicles, or  
37 omnibuses. As used herein and pursuant to R.S.39:1-1, the term  
38 "combination of vehicles" includes, but is not limited to, vehicles as  
39 heretofore designated, when those vehicles are the drawing or power  
40 unit of a combination of vehicles and motor-drawn vehicles, such as,  
41 but not limited to, trailers, semi-trailers, or other vehicles. As used

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 herein, the term "recycling vehicle" means a commercial motor vehicle  
2 used for the collection or transportation of recyclable material; or any  
3 truck, trailer or other vehicle approved by the New Jersey Office of  
4 Recycling for use by persons engaging in the business of recycling or  
5 otherwise providing recycling services in this State; and "recyclable  
6 material" means those materials which would otherwise become solid  
7 waste, and which may be collected, separated or processed and  
8 returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials or  
9 products.

10 (1) The maximum outside width of any vehicle or combination of  
11 vehicles, including load or contents of any part or portion thereof,  
12 except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall be no more than  
13 102 inches; except that the Commissioner of Transportation, after  
14 consultation with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and  
15 the Superintendent of State Police, may promulgate rules and  
16 regulations for those public roads, streets or highways or public or  
17 quasi-public property in this State, where it is determined that the  
18 interests of public safety and welfare require the maximum outside  
19 width be no more than 96 inches.

20 (2) The maximum height of any vehicle or combination of vehicles,  
21 including load or contents of any part or portion thereof, except as  
22 otherwise provided by this subsection, shall not exceed 13 feet, 6  
23 inches.

24 (3) The maximum overall length of any vehicle, as set forth in this  
25 subsection, including load or contents or any part or portion thereof,  
26 except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall not exceed 40  
27 feet, except that the overall length of a vehicle, including load or  
28 contents or any part or portion thereof, otherwise subject to the  
29 provisions of this paragraph shall not exceed 50 feet when transporting  
30 poles, pilings, structural units or other articles which cannot be  
31 dismembered, dismantled or divided. When a vehicle, subject to this  
32 paragraph, is the drawing or power unit of a combination of vehicles,  
33 as set forth in this subsection, the overall length of the combination of  
34 vehicles, including load or contents or any part or portion thereof,  
35 shall not exceed 62 feet. The provisions of this paragraph shall not  
36 apply to omnibuses or to vehicles which are not designed, built or  
37 otherwise capable of carrying cargo or loads.

38 (4) The maximum overall length of a motor-drawn vehicle, as set  
39 forth in this subsection, including load or contents or any part or  
40 portion thereof, except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall  
41 not exceed 53 feet when operated as part of a combination of vehicles  
42 consisting of one motor-drawn vehicle and a drawing or power unit  
43 vehicle not designed, built or otherwise capable of carrying cargo or  
44 loads, except that a motor-drawn vehicle, the overall length of which  
45 is greater than 48 feet and not more than 53 feet, shall be constructed  
46 so that the distance between the kingpin of the motor-drawn vehicle

1 and the centerline of its rear axle or rear axle group does not exceed  
2 41 feet; the motor-drawn vehicle shall be equipped with a rear-end  
3 protection device of substantial construction consisting of a  
4 continuous lateral beam extending to within four inches of the lateral  
5 extremities of the motor-drawn vehicle and located not more than 22  
6 inches from the surface as measured with the vehicle empty and on a  
7 level surface; the kingpin of the trailer shall not be set back further  
8 than 3.5 feet from the front of the semitrailer; the rear overhang,  
9 measured from the center of the rear tandem axles to the rear of the  
10 semitrailer shall not exceed 35% of the semitrailer's wheelbase; [the  
11 tractor wheelbase shall not exceed 20 feet between the center of the  
12 front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles;] the  
13 width of the semitrailer and the distance between the outside edges of  
14 the trailer tires shall be 102 inches; and the vehicle shall be equipped  
15 with such reflectorization, including but not limited to side-marker  
16 reflectorization strips located between the rear axle and the rear of the  
17 motor-drawn vehicle, as shall be prescribed by the Division of Motor  
18 Vehicles, and as is consistent with any applicable federal standards  
19 concerning reflectorization. The overall length of a motor-drawn  
20 vehicle otherwise subject to the provisions of this paragraph shall not  
21 exceed 63 feet when transporting poles, pilings, structural units or  
22 other articles that cannot be dismembered, dismantled or divided. The  
23 provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any vehicle or  
24 combination of vehicles designed, built and utilized solely to transport  
25 other motor vehicles. The Commissioner of Transportation, after  
26 consultation with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and  
27 the Superintendent of State Police, shall promulgate rules and  
28 regulations specifying those portions or parts of the National System  
29 of Interstate and Defense Highways, Federal-aid Primary System  
30 Highways and public roads, streets, highways, toll roads, freeways or  
31 parkways in this State where the combination of vehicles as described  
32 in this paragraph may lawfully operate. The commissioner shall  
33 promulgate rules and regulations within 120 days after the effective  
34 date of this amendatory act to identify a network of roads with  
35 reasonable access for motor-drawn vehicles greater than 48 feet in  
36 length but not more than 53 feet in length. The commissioner shall, in  
37 establishing this network, consider all portions of the network for 48  
38 foot long and 102 inch wide motor-drawn vehicles and specify those  
39 routes or portions thereof where motor-drawn vehicles greater than 48  
40 feet in length but not more than 53 feet in length shall be excluded  
41 from lawful operation for reasons of safety.

42 (5) No combination of vehicles, including load or contents,  
43 consisting of more than two motor-drawn vehicles, as set forth in this  
44 subsection, and any other vehicle, shall be found or operated on any  
45 public road, street or highway or any public or quasi-public property  
46 in this State.

1       (6) The maximum overall length of a motor-drawn vehicle, as set  
2 forth in this section, including load or contents or any part or portion  
3 thereof, except as otherwise provided by this subsection, when  
4 operated as part of a combination of vehicles consisting of two  
5 motor-drawn vehicles and a drawing or power unit vehicle which is  
6 not designed, built or otherwise capable of carrying cargo or loads,  
7 shall not exceed 28 feet for each motor-drawn vehicle in the  
8 combination of vehicles. The provision of this paragraph shall not  
9 apply to any vehicle or combination of vehicles designed, built and  
10 utilized solely to transport other motor vehicles. The Commissioner of  
11 Transportation, after consultation with the Director of the Division of  
12 Motor Vehicles and the Superintendent of State Police, shall  
13 promulgate rules and regulations specifying those portions or parts of  
14 the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, Federal-aid  
15 Primary System Highways and public roads, streets, highways, toll  
16 roads, freeways or parkways in this State where combinations of  
17 vehicles as described in this paragraph may lawfully operate.

18       (7) The maximum length and outside width of an omnibus found  
19 or operated in this State shall be established by rules and regulations  
20 promulgated by the Commissioner of Transportation, after  
21 consultation with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and  
22 the Superintendent of State Police. Unless otherwise specified in the  
23 aforesaid rules and regulations, the maximum outside width shall be  
24 102 inches; any other dimension established for width in the aforesaid  
25 rules and regulations shall be based upon a determination that  
26 operation of an omnibus with a width of less than 102 inches, but no  
27 less than 96 inches is required in the interest of public safety on those  
28 public roads, streets, highways, toll roads, freeways, parkways or the  
29 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this State  
30 specified in the aforesaid rules and regulations, or that operation of an  
31 omnibus with a width greater than 102 inches is not unsafe on those  
32 public roads, streets, highways, toll roads, freeways, parkways or the  
33 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this State  
34 specified in the aforesaid rules and regulations.

35       (8) The maximum width and length of farm tractors and traction  
36 equipment and farm machinery and implements shall be established by  
37 rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of  
38 Motor Vehicles. The operation of the aforesaid vehicles shall be  
39 subject to the provisions of R.S.39:3-24 and they shall not be operated  
40 on any highway which is part of the National System of Interstate and  
41 Defense Highways or on any highway which has been designated a  
42 freeway or parkway as provided by law.

43       (9) The maximum outside width of the cargo or load of a vehicle  
44 or combination of vehicles, including farm trucks, loaded with hay or  
45 straw shall not exceed 105 1/2 inches, but the maximum outside width  
46 of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, including farm trucks, shall

1 otherwise comply with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this  
2 subsection. The Commissioner of Transportation, after consultation  
3 with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the  
4 Superintendent of State Police, may promulgate rules and regulations  
5 establishing a maximum outside width of 102 inches for the aforesaid  
6 cargo or load when operating on those highways where a greater  
7 width is prohibited by operation of law.

8 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (6) of  
9 this subsection pertaining to length, the Director of the Division of  
10 Motor Vehicles may adopt rules and regulations specifying maximum  
11 length dimensions for any vehicle or combination of vehicles designed,  
12 built and utilized solely to transport other motor vehicles.

13 (11) The provisions of this subsection pertaining to length shall not  
14 apply to a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
15 equipment operated by a public utility, as defined in R.S.48:2-13,  
16 when that vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
17 equipment is used by the public utility in the construction,  
18 reconstruction, repair or maintenance of its property or facilities.

19 (12) The provisions of this subsection pertaining to width shall not  
20 apply to a recycling vehicle when that vehicle is used for the collection  
21 of recyclable material on a street or highway other than a highway  
22 which is designated part of the National System of Interstate and  
23 Defense Highways in this State or as a freeway or parkway as  
24 provided by law. The maximum outside width of any recycling vehicle  
25 so used, including load or contents of any part or portion thereof, shall  
26 be no more than 96 inches, except that the width may be up to 105  
27 inches whenever that vehicle is operating at 15 miles per hour or less,  
28 and access steps are deployed and recyclable materials are actually  
29 being collected.

30 b. No vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load or  
31 contents, found or operated on any public road, street or highway or  
32 any public or quasi-public property in this State shall exceed the  
33 weight limitations set forth in this Title. Violations shall be enforced  
34 pursuant to subsection j. of section 5 of P.L.1950, c.142  
35 (C.39:3-84.3).

36 Where enforcement of a weight limit provision of this Title requires  
37 a measurement of length between axle centers, the distance between  
38 axle centers shall be measured to the nearest whole foot or whole inch,  
39 whichever is applicable, and when the measurement includes a  
40 fractional part of a foot equaling six inches or more or a fractional part  
41 of an inch equaling one-half inch or more, the next larger whole foot  
42 or whole inch, whichever is applicable, shall be utilized. The term  
43 "tandem axle" as used in this act is defined as a combination of  
44 consecutive axles, consisting of only two axles, where the distance  
45 between axle centers is 40 inches or more but no more than 96 inches.

46 In addition to the other requirements of this section and

1 notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, no vehicle or  
2 combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall be operated  
3 in this State, unless by special permit authorized by this Title, with a  
4 gross weight, single or multiple axle weight, or gross weight of two or  
5 more consecutive axles, the allowance of which would disqualify the  
6 State of New Jersey or any department, agency or governmental  
7 subdivision thereof for the purpose of receiving federal highway funds.

8 (1) The gross weight imposed on the highway or other surface by  
9 the wheels of any one axle of a vehicle or combination of vehicles,  
10 including load or contents, shall not exceed 22,400 pounds.

11 For the purpose of this Title the combined gross weight imposed on  
12 the highway or other surface by all the wheels of any one axle of a  
13 vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall be  
14 deemed to mean the total gross weight of all wheels whose axle  
15 centers are spaced less than 40 inches apart.

16 (2) The gross weight imposed on the highway or other surface by  
17 all the wheels of all consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of  
18 vehicles, including load or contents, shall not exceed 34,000 pounds  
19 where the distance between consecutive axle centers is 40 inches or  
20 more, but no more than 96 inches apart.

21 (3) The combined gross weight imposed on the highway or other  
22 surface by all the wheels of consecutive axles of a vehicle or  
23 combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall not exceed  
24 22,400 pounds for each single axle where the distance between  
25 consecutive axle centers is more than 96 inches; except that on any  
26 highway in this State which is part of, or designated as part of, the  
27 National Interstate System, as provided at 23 U.S.C.103(e), this single  
28 axle limitation shall not apply and in those instances the provisions of  
29 this Title as set forth at R.S.39:3-84b.(5) shall apply.

30 (4) The maximum total gross weight imposed on the highway or  
31 other surface by a vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load  
32 or contents, shall not exceed 80,000 pounds.

33 (5) On any highway in this State which is part of, or designated as  
34 part of, the National Interstate System, as provided at 23 U.S.C.  
35 103(e), the total gross weight, in pounds, imposed on the highway or  
36 other surface by any group of two or more consecutive axles of a  
37 vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall  
38 not exceed that listed in the following Table of Maximum Gross  
39 Weights, for the respective distance, in feet, between the axle centers  
40 of the first and last axles of the group of two or more consecutive  
41 axles under consideration; except that in addition to the weights  
42 specified in that Table, two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry  
43 a gross weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between  
44 the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36  
45 feet or more. The gross weight of each set of tandem axles shall not  
46 exceed 34,000 pounds and the combined gross weight of the two



1 consecutive sets of tandem axles shall not exceed 68,000 pounds.

2 In all cases the combined gross weight for a vehicle or combination  
 3 of vehicles, including load or contents, or the maximum gross weight  
 4 for any axle or combination of axles of the vehicle or combination of  
 5 vehicles, including load or contents, shall not exceed that which is  
 6 permitted pursuant to this paragraph or R.S.39:3-84b.(2);  
 7 R.S.39:3-84b.(3); or R.S.39:3-84b.(4) of this act, whichever is the  
 8 lesser allowable gross weight.

9

10 TABLE OF MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHTS

11	Distance in feet						
12	between axle						
13	centers of first						
14	and last axles						
15	of any group						
16	of two or more						
17	consecutive axles						
18		2	3	4	5	6	7
19		axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles
20	3	22400	22400	22400	22400	22400	22400
21	4	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
22	5	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
23	6	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
24	7	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
25	8	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
26	9	39000	42500	42500	42500	42500	42500
27	10	40000	43500	43500	43500	43500	43500
28	11	41000	44000	44000	44000	44000	44000
29	12	42000	45000	50000	50000	50000	50000
30	13	43000	45500	50500	50500	50500	50500
31	14	44000	46500	51500	51500	51500	51500
32	15	44800	47000	52000	52000	52000	52000
33	16	44800	48000	52500	58000	58000	58000
34	17	44800	48500	53500	58500	58500	58500
35	18	44800	49500	54000	59000	59000	59000
36	19	44800	50000	54500	60000	60000	60000
37	20	44800	51000	55500	60500	66000	66000
38	21	44800	51500	56000	61000	66500	66500
39	22	44800	52500	56500	61500	67000	67000
40	23	44800	53000	57500	62500	68000	68000
41	24	44800	54000	58000	63000	68500	74000
42	25	44800	54500	58500	63500	69000	74500
43	26	44800	55500	59500	64000	69500	75000
44	27	44800	56000	60000	65000	70000	75500
45	28	44800	57000	60500	65500	71000	76500
46	29	44800	57500	61500	66000	71500	77000

1	30	44800	58500	62000	66500	72000	77500
2	31	44800	59000	62500	67500	72500	78000
3	32	44800	60000	63500	68000	73000	78500
4	33	44800	60500	64000	68500	74000	79000
5	34	44800	61500	64500	69000	74500	80000
6	35	44800	62000	65500	70000	75000	80000
7	36	44800	63000	66000	70500	75500	80000
8	37	44800	63500	66500	71000	76000	80000
9	38	44800	64500	67500	71500	77000	80000
10	39	44800	65000	68000	72500	77500	80000
11	40	44800	66000	68500	73000	78000	80000
12	41	44800	66500	69500	73500	78500	80000
13	42	44800	67200	70000	74000	79000	80000
14	43	44800	67200	70500	75000	80000	80000
15	44	44800	67200	71500	75500	80000	80000
16	45	44800	67200	72000	76000	80000	80000
17	46	44800	67200	72500	76500	80000	80000
18	47	44800	67200	73500	77500	80000	80000
19	48	44800	67200	74000	78000	80000	80000
20	49	44800	67200	74500	78500	80000	80000
21	50	44800	67200	75500	79000	80000	80000
22	51	44800	67200	76000	80000	80000	80000
23	52	44800	67200	76500	80000	80000	80000
24	53	44800	67200	77500	80000	80000	80000
25	54	44800	67200	78000	80000	80000	80000
26	55	44800	67200	78500	80000	80000	80000
27	56	44800	67200	79500	80000	80000	80000
28	57	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
29	58	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
30	59	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
31	60	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
32	61	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
33	62	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
34	63	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
35	64	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
36	65	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
37	66	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
38	67	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
39	68	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
40	69	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
41	70	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000

42 c. The dimensional and weight restrictions set forth herein shall not  
43 apply to a combination of vehicles which includes a disabled vehicle or  
44 a combination of vehicles being removed from a highway in this State,  
45 provided that such oversize or overweight vehicle combination may  
46 not travel on the public highways more than five miles from the point

1 where such disablement occurred. If the disablement occurred on a  
2 limited access highway, the distance to the nearest exit of such  
3 highway shall be added to the five-mile limitation.

4 d. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles may promulgate  
5 rules and regulations, including the establishment of fees, for the  
6 issuance, at his discretion and if good cause appears, of a special  
7 written permit authorizing the applicant:

8 (1) To operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or  
9 special mobile equipment, transporting one piece loads that cannot be  
10 dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply with the  
11 weight limitations set forth in this act. The special written permit  
12 issued by the director shall be in the possession of the driver or  
13 operator of the vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
14 equipment for which said permit was issued; and

15 (2) To operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or  
16 specialized mobile equipment, transporting a load or cargo that cannot  
17 be dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply with the  
18 dimensional limitations set forth in this act. The special written permit  
19 shall be in the possession of the driver or operator of the vehicle or  
20 combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment for which the  
21 permit was issued; and

22 (3) Under emergency conditions, to operate or move a type of  
23 vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a  
24 size or weight, including load or contents, which exceeds the  
25 maximum size or weight limitations specified in this act.

26 (cf: P.L.1995, c.397, s.3)

27

28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

29

30

31

32

33 Removes requirement that tractor wheelbase of certain motor-drawn  
34 vehicles not exceed 20 feet between center of front axle and center of  
35 rear single axle or tandem axles.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1284

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ALEX DECROCE**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman JOSEPH CHARLES, JR.**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Removes requirement that tractor wheelbase of certain motor-drawn vehicles not exceed 20 feet between center of front axle and center of rear single axle or tandem axles.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Transportation Committee with technical review.



1 AN ACT concerning truck dimensions and amending R.S.39:3-84.

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3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
4 of New Jersey:

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6 1. R.S.39:3-84 is amended to read as follows:

7 39:3-84. a. The following constitute the maximum dimensional  
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11 or quasi-public property in this State. Violations shall be enforced  
12 pursuant to subsection i. of section 5 of P.L.1950, c.142  
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18 its design or use the capability to carry, transport or otherwise be  
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21 to this subsection shall be consistent with any rules and regulations  
22 promulgated by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States  
23 of America, and shall be in accordance with the provisions of the  
24 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
25 seq.). In addition to the other requirements of this subsection and  
26 notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, no vehicle or  
27 combination of vehicles, including load or contents or any part or  
28 portion thereof, except as otherwise provided by this subsection shall  
29 be operated in this State, unless by special permit authorized by  
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32 or governmental subdivision thereof for the purpose of receiving  
33 federal highway funds.

34 As used herein and pursuant to R.S.39:1-1, the term "vehicle"  
35 includes, but is not limited to, commercial motor vehicles, trucks,  
36 truck tractors, tractors, road tractors, recreation vehicles, or  
37 omnibuses. As used herein and pursuant to R.S.39:1-1, the term  
38 "combination of vehicles" includes, but is not limited to, vehicles as  
39 heretofore designated, when those vehicles are the drawing or power  
40 unit of a combination of vehicles and motor-drawn vehicles, such as,  
41 but not limited to, trailers, semi-trailers, or other vehicles. As used  
42 herein, the term "recycling vehicle" means a commercial motor vehicle  
43 used for the collection or transportation of recyclable material; or any

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 truck, trailer or other vehicle approved by the New Jersey Office of  
2 Recycling for use by persons engaging in the business of recycling or  
3 otherwise providing recycling services in this State; and "recyclable  
4 material" means those materials which would otherwise become solid  
5 waste, and which may be collected, separated or processed and  
6 returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials or  
7 products.

8 (1) The maximum outside width of any vehicle or combination of  
9 vehicles, including load or contents of any part or portion thereof,  
10 except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall be no more than  
11 102 inches; except that the Commissioner of Transportation, after  
12 consultation with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and  
13 the Superintendent of State Police, may promulgate rules and  
14 regulations for those public roads, streets or highways or public or  
15 quasi-public property in this State, where it is determined that the  
16 interests of public safety and welfare require the maximum outside  
17 width be no more than 96 inches.

18 (2) The maximum height of any vehicle or combination of vehicles,  
19 including load or contents of any part or portion thereof, except as  
20 otherwise provided by this subsection, shall not exceed 13 feet, 6  
21 inches.

22 (3) The maximum overall length of any vehicle, as set forth in this  
23 subsection, including load or contents or any part or portion thereof,  
24 except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall not exceed 40  
25 feet, except that the overall length of a vehicle, including load or  
26 contents or any part or portion thereof, otherwise subject to the  
27 provisions of this paragraph shall not exceed 50 feet when transporting  
28 poles, pilings, structural units or other articles which cannot be  
29 dismembered, dismantled or divided. When a vehicle, subject to this  
30 paragraph, is the drawing or power unit of a combination of vehicles,  
31 as set forth in this subsection, the overall length of the combination of  
32 vehicles, including load or contents or any part or portion thereof,  
33 shall not exceed 62 feet. The provisions of this paragraph shall not  
34 apply to omnibuses or to vehicles which are not designed, built or  
35 otherwise capable of carrying cargo or loads.

36 (4) The maximum overall length of a motor-drawn vehicle, as set  
37 forth in this subsection, including load or contents or any part or  
38 portion thereof, except as otherwise provided by this subsection, shall  
39 not exceed 53 feet when operated as part of a combination of vehicles  
40 consisting of one motor-drawn vehicle and a drawing or power unit  
41 vehicle not designed, built or otherwise capable of carrying cargo or  
42 loads, except that a motor-drawn vehicle, the overall length of which  
43 is greater than 48 feet and not more than 53 feet, shall be constructed  
44 so that the distance between the kingpin of the motor-drawn vehicle  
45 and the centerline of its rear axle or rear axle group does not exceed  
46 41 feet; the motor-drawn vehicle shall be equipped with a rear-end

1 protection device of substantial construction consisting of a  
2 continuous lateral beam extending to within four inches of the lateral  
3 extremities of the motor-drawn vehicle and located not more than 22  
4 inches from the surface as measured with the vehicle empty and on a  
5 level surface; the kingpin of the trailer shall not be set back further  
6 than 3.5 feet from the front of the semitrailer; the rear overhang,  
7 measured from the center of the rear tandem axles to the rear of the  
8 semitrailer shall not exceed 35% of the semitrailer's wheelbase; [the  
9 tractor wheelbase shall not exceed 20 feet between the center of the  
10 front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles;] the  
11 width of the semitrailer and the distance between the outside edges of  
12 the trailer tires shall be 102 inches; and the vehicle shall be equipped  
13 with such reflectorization, including but not limited to side-marker  
14 reflectorization strips located between the rear axle and the rear of the  
15 motor-drawn vehicle, as shall be prescribed by the Division of Motor  
16 Vehicles, and as is consistent with any applicable federal standards  
17 concerning reflectorization. The overall length of a motor-drawn  
18 vehicle otherwise subject to the provisions of this paragraph shall not  
19 exceed 63 feet when transporting poles, pilings, structural units or  
20 other articles that cannot be dismembered, dismantled or divided. The  
21 provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any vehicle or  
22 combination of vehicles designed, built and utilized solely to transport  
23 other motor vehicles. The Commissioner of Transportation, after  
24 consultation with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and  
25 the Superintendent of State Police, shall promulgate rules and  
26 regulations specifying those portions or parts of the National System  
27 of Interstate and Defense Highways, Federal-aid Primary System  
28 Highways and public roads, streets, highways, toll roads, freeways or  
29 parkways in this State where the combination of vehicles as described  
30 in this paragraph may lawfully operate. The commissioner shall  
31 promulgate rules and regulations within 120 days after the effective  
32 date of this amendatory act to identify a network of roads with  
33 reasonable access for motor-drawn vehicles greater than 48 feet in  
34 length but not more than 53 feet in length. The commissioner shall, in  
35 establishing this network, consider all portions of the network for 48  
36 foot long and 102 inch wide motor-drawn vehicles and specify those  
37 routes or portions thereof where motor-drawn vehicles greater than 48  
38 feet in length but not more than 53 feet in length shall be excluded  
39 from lawful operation for reasons of safety.

40 (5) No combination of vehicles, including load or contents,  
41 consisting of more than two motor-drawn vehicles, as set forth in this  
42 subsection, and any other vehicle, shall be found or operated on any  
43 public road, street or highway or any public or quasi-public property  
44 in this State.

45 (6) The maximum overall length of a motor-drawn vehicle, as set  
46 forth in this section, including load or contents or any part or portion

1 thereof, except as otherwise provided by this subsection, when  
2 operated as part of a combination of vehicles consisting of two  
3 motor-drawn vehicles and a drawing or power unit vehicle which is  
4 not designed, built or otherwise capable of carrying cargo or loads,  
5 shall not exceed 28 feet for each motor-drawn vehicle in the  
6 combination of vehicles. The provision of this paragraph shall not  
7 apply to any vehicle or combination of vehicles designed, built and  
8 utilized solely to transport other motor vehicles. The Commissioner of  
9 Transportation, after consultation with the Director of the Division of  
10 Motor Vehicles and the Superintendent of State Police, shall  
11 promulgate rules and regulations specifying those portions or parts of  
12 the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, Federal-aid  
13 Primary System Highways and public roads, streets, highways, toll  
14 roads, freeways or parkways in this State where combinations of  
15 vehicles as described in this paragraph may lawfully operate.

16 (7) The maximum length and outside width of an omnibus found  
17 or operated in this State shall be established by rules and regulations  
18 promulgated by the Commissioner of Transportation, after  
19 consultation with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and  
20 the Superintendent of State Police. Unless otherwise specified in the  
21 aforesaid rules and regulations, the maximum outside width shall be  
22 102 inches; any other dimension established for width in the aforesaid  
23 rules and regulations shall be based upon a determination that  
24 operation of an omnibus with a width of less than 102 inches, but no  
25 less than 96 inches is required in the interest of public safety on those  
26 public roads, streets, highways, toll roads, freeways, parkways or the  
27 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this State  
28 specified in the aforesaid rules and regulations, or that operation of an  
29 omnibus with a width greater than 102 inches is not unsafe on those  
30 public roads, streets, highways, toll roads, freeways, parkways or the  
31 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this State  
32 specified in the aforesaid rules and regulations.

33 (8) The maximum width and length of farm tractors and traction  
34 equipment and farm machinery and implements shall be established by  
35 rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of  
36 Motor Vehicles. The operation of the aforesaid vehicles shall be  
37 subject to the provisions of R.S.39:3-24 and they shall not be operated  
38 on any highway which is part of the National System of Interstate and  
39 Defense Highways or on any highway which has been designated a  
40 freeway or parkway as provided by law.

41 (9) The maximum outside width of the cargo or load of a vehicle  
42 or combination of vehicles, including farm trucks, loaded with hay or  
43 straw shall not exceed 105 1/2 inches, but the maximum outside width  
44 of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, including farm trucks, shall  
45 otherwise comply with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this  
46 subsection. The Commissioner of Transportation, after consultation



1 with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the  
2 Superintendent of State Police, may promulgate rules and regulations  
3 establishing a maximum outside width of 102 inches for the aforesaid  
4 cargo or load when operating on those highways where a greater  
5 width is prohibited by operation of law.

6 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (4) and (6) of  
7 this subsection pertaining to length, the Director of the Division of  
8 Motor Vehicles may adopt rules and regulations specifying maximum  
9 length dimensions for any vehicle or combination of vehicles designed,  
10 built and utilized solely to transport other motor vehicles.

11 (11) The provisions of this subsection pertaining to length shall not  
12 apply to a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
13 equipment operated by a public utility, as defined in R.S.48:2-13,  
14 when that vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
15 equipment is used by the public utility in the construction,  
16 reconstruction, repair or maintenance of its property or facilities.

17 (12) The provisions of this subsection pertaining to width shall not  
18 apply to a recycling vehicle when that vehicle is used for the collection  
19 of recyclable material on a street or highway other than a highway  
20 which is designated part of the National System of Interstate and  
21 Defense Highways in this State or as a freeway or parkway as  
22 provided by law. The maximum outside width of any recycling vehicle  
23 so used, including load or contents of any part or portion thereof, shall  
24 be no more than 96 inches, except that the width may be up to 105  
25 inches whenever that vehicle is operating at 15 miles per hour or less,  
26 and access steps are deployed and recyclable materials are actually  
27 being collected.

28 b. No vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load or  
29 contents, found or operated on any public road, street or highway or  
30 any public or quasi-public property in this State shall exceed the  
31 weight limitations set forth in this Title. Violations shall be enforced  
32 pursuant to subsection j. of section 5 of P.L.1950, c.142  
33 (C.39:3-84.3).

34 Where enforcement of a weight limit provision of this Title requires  
35 a measurement of length between axle centers, the distance between  
36 axle centers shall be measured to the nearest whole foot or whole inch,  
37 whichever is applicable, and when the measurement includes a  
38 fractional part of a foot equaling six inches or more or a fractional part  
39 of an inch equaling one-half inch or more, the next larger whole foot  
40 or whole inch, whichever is applicable, shall be utilized. The term  
41 "tandem axle" as used in this act is defined as a combination of  
42 consecutive axles, consisting of only two axles, where the distance  
43 between axle centers is 40 inches or more but no more than 96 inches.

44 In addition to the other requirements of this section and  
45 notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, no vehicle or  
46 combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall be operated

1 in this State, unless by special permit authorized by this Title, with a  
2 gross weight, single or multiple axle weight, or gross weight of two or  
3 more consecutive axles, the allowance of which would disqualify the  
4 State of New Jersey or any department, agency or governmental  
5 subdivision thereof for the purpose of receiving federal highway funds.

6 (1) The gross weight imposed on the highway or other surface by  
7 the wheels of any one axle of a vehicle or combination of vehicles,  
8 including load or contents, shall not exceed 22,400 pounds.

9 For the purpose of this Title the combined gross weight imposed on  
10 the highway or other surface by all the wheels of any one axle of a  
11 vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall be  
12 deemed to mean the total gross weight of all wheels whose axle  
13 centers are spaced less than 40 inches apart.

14 (2) The gross weight imposed on the highway or other surface by  
15 all the wheels of all consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of  
16 vehicles, including load or contents, shall not exceed 34,000 pounds  
17 where the distance between consecutive axle centers is 40 inches or  
18 more, but no more than 96 inches apart.

19 (3) The combined gross weight imposed on the highway or other  
20 surface by all the wheels of consecutive axles of a vehicle or  
21 combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall not exceed  
22 22,400 pounds for each single axle where the distance between  
23 consecutive axle centers is more than 96 inches; except that on any  
24 highway in this State which is part of, or designated as part of, the  
25 National Interstate System, as provided at 23 U.S.C.103(e), this single  
26 axle limitation shall not apply and in those instances the provisions of  
27 this Title as set forth at R.S.39:3-84b.(5) shall apply.

28 (4) The maximum total gross weight imposed on the highway or  
29 other surface by a vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load  
30 or contents, shall not exceed 80,000 pounds.

31 (5) On any highway in this State which is part of, or designated as  
32 part of, the National Interstate System, as provided at 23 U.S.C.  
33 103(e), the total gross weight, in pounds, imposed on the highway or  
34 other surface by any group of two or more consecutive axles of a  
35 vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall  
36 not exceed that listed in the following Table of Maximum Gross  
37 Weights, for the respective distance, in feet, between the axle centers  
38 of the first and last axles of the group of two or more consecutive  
39 axles under consideration; except that in addition to the weights  
40 specified in that Table, two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry  
41 a gross weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between  
42 the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36  
43 feet or more. The gross weight of each set of tandem axles shall not  
44 exceed 34,000 pounds and the combined gross weight of the two  
45 consecutive sets of tandem axles shall not exceed 68,000 pounds.

46 In all cases the combined gross weight for a vehicle or combination

1 of vehicles, including load or contents, or the maximum gross weight  
 2 for any axle or combination of axles of the vehicle or combination of  
 3 vehicles, including load or contents, shall not exceed that which is  
 4 permitted pursuant to this paragraph or R.S.39:3-84b.(2);  
 5 R.S.39:3-84b.(3); or R.S.39:3-84b.(4) of this act, whichever is the  
 6 lesser allowable gross weight.

7

8 TABLE OF MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHTS

9	Distance in feet						
10	between axle						
11	centers of first						
12	and last axles						
13	of any group						
14	of two or more						
15	consecutive axles						
16	2	3	4	5	6	7	
17	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles
18	3	22400	22400	22400	22400	22400	22400
19	4	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
20	5	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
21	6	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
22	7	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
23	8	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000	34000
24	9	39000	42500	42500	42500	42500	42500
25	10	40000	43500	43500	43500	43500	43500
26	11	41000	44000	44000	44000	44000	44000
27	12	42000	45000	50000	50000	50000	50000
28	13	43000	45500	50500	50500	50500	50500
29	14	44000	46500	51500	51500	51500	51500
30	15	44800	47000	52000	52000	52000	52000
31	16	44800	48000	52500	58000	58000	58000
32	17	44800	48500	53500	58500	58500	58500
33	18	44800	49500	54000	59000	59000	59000
34	19	44800	50000	54500	60000	60000	60000
35	20	44800	51000	55500	60500	66000	66000
36	21	44800	51500	56000	61000	66500	66500
37	22	44800	52500	56500	61500	67000	67000
38	23	44800	53000	57500	62500	68000	68000
39	24	44800	54000	58000	63000	68500	74000
40	25	44800	54500	58500	63500	69000	74500
41	26	44800	55500	59500	64000	69500	75000
42	27	44800	56000	60000	65000	70000	75500
43	28	44800	57000	60500	65500	71000	76500
44	29	44800	57500	61500	66000	71500	77000
45	30	44800	58500	62000	66500	72000	77500
46	31	44800	59000	62500	67500	72500	78000

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1	32	44800	60000	63500	68000	73000	78500
2	33	44800	60500	64000	68500	74000	79000
3	34	44800	61500	64500	69000	74500	80000
4	35	44800	62000	65500	70000	75000	80000
5	36	44800	63000	66000	70500	75500	80000
6	37	44800	63500	66500	71000	76000	80000
7	38	44800	64500	67500	71500	77000	80000
8	39	44800	65000	68000	72500	77500	80000
9	40	44800	66000	68500	73000	78000	80000
10	41	44800	66500	69500	73500	78500	80000
11	42	44800	67200	70000	74000	79000	80000
12	43	44800	67200	70500	75000	80000	80000
13	44	44800	67200	71500	75500	80000	80000
14	45	44800	67200	72000	76000	80000	80000
15	46	44800	67200	72500	76500	80000	80000
16	47	44800	67200	73500	77500	80000	80000
17	48	44800	67200	74000	78000	80000	80000
18	49	44800	67200	74500	78500	80000	80000
19	50	44800	67200	75500	79000	80000	80000
20	51	44800	67200	76000	80000	80000	80000
21	52	44800	67200	76500	80000	80000	80000
22	53	44800	67200	77500	80000	80000	80000
23	54	44800	67200	78000	80000	80000	80000
24	55	44800	67200	78500	80000	80000	80000
25	56	44800	67200	79500	80000	80000	80000
26	57	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
27	58	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
28	59	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
29	60	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
30	61	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
31	62	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
32	63	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
33	64	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
34	65	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
35	66	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
36	67	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
37	68	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
38	69	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
39	70	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000

40 c. The dimensional and weight restrictions set forth herein shall not  
41 apply to a combination of vehicles which includes a disabled vehicle or  
42 a combination of vehicles being removed from a highway in this State,  
43 provided that such oversize or overweight vehicle combination may  
44 not travel on the public highways more than five miles from the point  
45 where such disablement occurred. If the disablement occurred on a  
46 limited access highway, the distance to the nearest exit of such

1 highway shall be added to the five-mile limitation.

2 d. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles may promulgate  
3 rules and regulations, including the establishment of fees, for the  
4 issuance, at his discretion and if good cause appears, of a special  
5 written permit authorizing the applicant:

6 (1) To operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or  
7 special mobile equipment, transporting one piece loads that cannot be  
8 dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply with the  
9 weight limitations set forth in this act. The special written permit  
10 issued by the director shall be in the possession of the driver or  
11 operator of the vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
12 equipment for which said permit was issued; and

13 (2) To operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or  
14 specialized mobile equipment, transporting a load or cargo that cannot  
15 be dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply with the  
16 dimensional limitations set forth in this act. The special written permit  
17 shall be in the possession of the driver or operator of the vehicle or  
18 combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment for which the  
19 permit was issued; and

20 (3) Under emergency conditions, to operate or move a type of  
21 vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a  
22 size or weight, including load or contents, which exceeds the  
23 maximum size or weight limitations specified in this act.

24 (cf: P.L.1995, c.397, s.3)

25

26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1284**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 2, 1998

The Assembly Transportation Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1284.

This bill would remove the current requirement that the tractor wheelbase of a motor-drawn vehicle not exceed 20 feet between the center of the front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles. Approximately 80% of the vehicles being manufactured today exceed this requirement.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1998 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1284**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 22, 1998

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1284.

This bill would remove the current requirement that the tractor wheelbase of a motor-drawn vehicle not exceed 20 feet between the center of the front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles. Approximately 80% of the vehicles being manufactured today exceed this requirement.

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

*Office of the Governor*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Gene Herman  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: February 26, 1999

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the following pieces of legislation:

A-1284, sponsored by Assembly Members Alex DeCroce (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Joseph Charles, Jr. (D-Hudson), eliminates the current requirement that the tractor wheelbase of motor drawn vehicles, such as trailers and semi-trailers not exceed 20 feet between the center of the front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles. The requirement was applicable only to motor-drawn vehicles which were 53 feet in length. The 20-foot requirement was eliminated because the industry standard exceeds the 20-foot requirement. Approximately 80 percent of the vehicles being manufactured today exceed this requirement. The industry standard is approximately 24 feet in length. The 20-foot restriction was enacted to ensure that 53-foot motor vehicles would be able to effectively negotiate turns. The industry now advises that the distance between the axles is not an important factor in that regard. Rather, it is the distance between the kingpin of the motor-drawn vehicle and the centerline of the rear axle which is more determinative of a vehicle's ability to turn effectively. This distance is currently regulated by statute and is not altered by this bill.

A-1343, sponsored by Assembly Member Carol J. Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Senator Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris), permits a county park commission to lease park lands or concessions for a period not to exceed ten years. Current law limits the duration of such leases to five years. The time of the leases will continue to be subject to the approval of the board of Chosen Freeholders of each county.