

39:3-84

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
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(Semi-trailers--  
length)

LAWS OF: 1991

CHAPTER: 115

Bill No: A3458

Sponsor(s): Cohen and Kronick

Date Introduced: April 26, 1990

Committee: Assembly: Transportation

Senate: -----

Amended during passage: Yes      Amendments during passage  
denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: January 31, 1991

Senate: March 7, 1991

Date of Approval: April 19, 1991

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: No

Senate: Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

See newspaper clippings--attached:  
KBG/SLJ

[SECOND REPRINT]  
ASSEMBLY, No. 3458

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 26, 1990

By Assemblymen COHEN and Kronick

1 AN ACT changing the equipment length requirements of certain  
2 motor-drawn vehicles and amending R.S.39:3-84.

3

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

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

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

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

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

35 As used herein and pursuant to R.S.39:1-1, the term "vehicle"  
36 includes, but is not limited to, commercial motor vehicles,  
37 trucks, truck tractors, tractors, road tractors, or omnibuses. As  
38 used herein and pursuant to R.S.39:1-1, the term "combination of  
39 vehicles" includes, but is not limited to, vehicles as heretofore

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted November 29, 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Assembly floor amendments adopted December 17, 1990.

1 designated, when those vehicles are the drawing or power unit of  
2 a combination of vehicles and motor-drawn vehicles, such as, but  
3 not limited to, trailers, semi-trailers, or other vehicles. As used  
4 herein, the term "recycling vehicle" means a commercial motor  
5 vehicle used for the collection or transportation of recyclable  
6 material; or any truck, trailer or other vehicle approved by the  
7 New Jersey Office of Recycling for use by persons engaging in  
8 the business of recycling or otherwise providing recycling  
9 services in this State; and "recyclable material" means those  
10 materials which would otherwise become solid waste, and which  
11 may be collected, separated or processed and returned to the  
12 economic mainstream in the form of raw materials or products.

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

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

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

43 (4) The maximum overall length of a motor-drawn vehicle, as  
44 set forth in this subsection, including load or contents or any part  
45 or portion thereof, except as otherwise provided by this  
46 subsection, shall not exceed [48 feet] 53 feet when operated as  
47 part of a combination of vehicles consisting of one motor-drawn  
48 vehicle and a drawing or power unit vehicle not designed, built or  
49 otherwise capable of carrying cargo or loads, except that [the] a

1 motor-drawn vehicle, the overall length of which is greater than  
2 48 feet and not more than 53 feet, shall be constructed so that  
3 the distance between the kingpin of the motor-drawn vehicle and  
4 the centerline of its rear axle or rear axle group does not exceed  
5 41 feet <sup>1</sup>[and] ;<sup>1</sup> the motor-drawn vehicle shall be equipped with  
6 a rear-end protection device of substantial construction  
7 consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending to within four  
8 inches of the lateral extremities of the motor-drawn vehicle and  
9 located not more than 22 inches from the surface as measured  
10 with the vehicle empty and on a level surface <sup>1</sup>; the kingpin of  
11 the trailer shall not be set back further than 3.5 feet from the  
12 front of the semitrailer; the rear overhang, measured from the  
13 center of the rear tandem axles to the rear of the semitrailer  
14 shall not exceed 35% of the semitrailer's wheelbase; the tractor  
15 wheelbase shall not exceed 20 feet between the center of the  
16 front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles;  
17 the width of the semitrailer and the distance between the outside  
18 edges of the trailer tires shall be <sup>2</sup>[no more than]<sup>2</sup> 102 inches;  
19 and the vehicle shall be equipped with such reflectorization,  
20 including but not limited to side-marker reflectorization strips  
21 located between the rear axle and the rear of the motor-drawn  
22 vehicle, as shall be prescribed by the Division of Motor Vehicles,  
23 and as is consistent with any applicable federal standards  
24 concerning reflectorization<sup>1</sup>. The overall length of a  
25 motor-drawn vehicle otherwise subject to the provisions of this  
26 paragraph shall not exceed 63 feet when transporting poles,  
27 pilings, structural units or other articles that cannot be  
28 dismembered, dismantled or divided. The provisions of this  
29 paragraph shall not apply to any vehicle or combination of  
30 vehicles designed, built and utilized solely to transport other  
31 motor vehicles. <sup>1</sup>The Commissioner of Transportation, after  
32 consultation with the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles  
33 and the Superintendent of State Police, <sup>2</sup>[may] shall<sup>2</sup> promulgate  
34 rules and regulations specifying those portions or parts of the  
35 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, Federal-aid  
36 Primary System Highways and public roads, streets, highways,  
37 toll roads, freeways or parkways in this State where the  
38 combination of vehicles as described in this paragraph may  
39 lawfully operate <sup>2</sup>]; however, these rules and regulations shall be  
40 no more stringent than those promulgated under any federal law,  
41 rule or regulation.<sup>1</sup>] . The commissioner shall promulgate rules  
42 and regulations within 120 days after the effective date of this  
43 amendatory act to identify a network of roads with reasonable  
44 access for motor-drawn vehicles greater than 48 feet in length  
45 but not more than 53 feet in length. The commissioner shall, in  
46 establishing this network, consider all portions of the network for  
47 48 foot long and 102 inch wide motor-drawn vehicles and specify  
48 those routes or portions thereof where motor-drawn vehicles  
49 greater than 48 feet in length but not more than 53 feet in length

1 shall be excluded from lawful operation for reasons of safety.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

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

43 (8) The maximum width and length of farm tractors and  
44 traction equipment and farm machinery and implements shall be  
45 established by rules and regulations promulgated by the Director  
46 of the Division of Motor Vehicles. The operation of the aforesaid  
47 vehicles shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 39:3-24 and  
48 they shall not be operated on any highway which is part of the  
49 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways or on any

1 highway which has been designated a freeway or parkway as  
2 provided by law.

3 (9) The maximum outside width of the cargo or load of a  
4 vehicle or combination of vehicles, including farm trucks, loaded  
5 with hay or straw shall not exceed 105 1/2 inches, but the  
6 maximum outside width of the vehicle or combination of vehicles,  
7 including farm trucks, shall otherwise comply with the provisions  
8 of paragraph (1) of this subsection. The Commissioner of  
9 Transportation, after consultation with the Director of the  
10 Division of Motor Vehicles and the Superintendent of State  
11 Police, may promulgate rules and regulations establishing a  
12 maximum outside width of 102 inches for the aforesaid cargo or  
13 load when operating on those highways where a greater width is  
14 prohibited by operation of law.

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

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

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

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

45 Where enforcement of a weight limit provision of this Title  
46 requires a measurement of length between axle centers, the  
47 distance between axle centers shall be measured to the nearest  
48 whole foot or whole inch, whichever is applicable, and when the  
49 measurement includes a fractional part of a foot equaling six

1 inches or more or a fractional part of an inch equaling one-half  
2 inch or more, the next larger whole foot or whole inch, whichever  
3 is applicable, shall be utilized. The term "tandem axle" as used  
4 in this act is defined as a combination of consecutive axles,  
5 consisting of only two axles, where the distance between axle  
6 centers is 40 inches or more but no more than 96 inches.

7 In addition to the other requirements of this section and  
8 notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, no vehicle or  
9 combination of vehicles, including load or contents, shall be  
10 operated in this State, unless by special permit authorized by this  
11 Title, with a gross weight, single or multiple axle weight, or gross  
12 weight of two or more consecutive axles, the allowance of which  
13 would disqualify the State of New Jersey or any department,  
14 agency or governmental subdivision thereof for the purpose of  
15 receiving federal highway funds.

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

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

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

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

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

44 (5) On any highway in this State which is part of, or designated  
45 as part of, the National Interstate System, as provided at 23  
46 U.S.C. § 103(e), the total gross weight, in pounds, imposed on the  
47 highway or other surface by any group of two or more  
48 consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles,  
49 including load or contents, shall not exceed that listed in the

1 following Table of Maximum Gross Weights, for the respective  
 2 distance, in feet, between the axle centers of the first and last  
 3 axles of the group of two or more consecutive axles under  
 4 consideration; except that in addition to the weights specified in  
 5 that Table, two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a  
 6 gross weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance  
 7 between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem  
 8 axles is 36 feet or more. The gross weight of each set of tandem  
 9 axles shall not exceed 34,000 pounds and the combined gross  
 10 weight of the two consecutive sets of tandem axles shall not  
 11 exceed 68,000 pounds.

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

20

21

## TABLE OF MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHTS

22

Distance in feet

23

between axle

24

centers of first

25

and last axles

26

of any group

27

of two or more

28

consecutive axles

29

2 3 4 5 6 7

30

axles axles axles axles axles axles

31

3 22400 22400 22400 22400 22400 22400

32

4 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000

33

5 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000

34

6 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000

35

7 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000

36

8 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000 34000

37

9 39000 42500 42500 42500 42500 42500

38

10 40000 43500 43500 43500 43500 43500

39

11 41000 44000 44000 44000 44000 44000

40

12 42000 45000 50000 50000 50000 50000

41

13 43000 45500 50500 50500 50500 50500

42

14 44000 46500 51500 51500 51500 51500

43

15 44800 47000 52000 52000 52000 52000

44

16 44800 48000 52500 58000 58000 58000

45

17 44800 48500 53500 58500 58500 58500

46

18 44800 49500 54000 59000 59000 59000

47

19 44800 50000 54500 60000 60000 60000

48

20 44800 51000 55500 60500 66000 66000

49

21 44800 51500 56000 61000 66500 66500



1	TABLE OF MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHTS						
2	Distance in feet						
3	between axle						
4	centers of first						
5	and last axles						
6	of any group						
7	of two or more						
8	consecutive axles						
9		2	3	4	5	6	7
10		axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles
11	22	44800	52500	56500	61500	67000	67000
12	23	44800	53000	57500	62500	68000	68000
13	24	44800	54000	58000	63000	68500	74000
14	25	44800	54500	58500	63500	69000	74500
15	26	44800	55500	59500	64000	69500	75000
16	27	44800	56000	60000	65000	70000	75500
17	28	44800	57000	60500	65500	71000	76500
18	29	44800	57500	61500	66000	71500	77000
19	30	44800	58500	62000	66500	72000	77500
20	31	44800	59000	62500	67500	72500	78000
21	32	44800	60000	63500	68000	73000	78500
22	33	44800	60500	64000	68500	74000	79000
23	34	44800	61500	64500	69000	74500	80000
24	35	44800	62000	65500	70000	75000	80000
25	36	44800	63000	66000	70500	75500	80000
26	37	44800	63500	66500	71000	76000	80000
27	38	44800	64500	67500	71500	77000	80000
28	39	44800	65000	68000	72500	77500	80000
29	40	44800	66000	68500	73000	78000	80000
30	41	44800	66500	69500	73500	78500	80000
31	42	44800	67200	70000	74000	79000	80000
32	43	44800	67200	70500	75000	80000	80000
33	44	44800	67200	71500	75500	80000	80000
34	45	44800	67200	72000	76000	80000	80000
35	46	44800	67200	72500	76500	80000	80000
36	47	44800	67200	73500	77500	80000	80000
37	48	44800	67200	74000	78000	80000	80000
38	49	44800	67200	74500	78500	80000	80000
39	50	44800	67200	75500	79000	80000	80000
40	51	44800	67200	76000	80000	80000	80000
41	52	44800	67200	76500	80000	80000	80000
42	53	44800	67200	77500	80000	80000	80000
43	54	44800	67200	78000	80000	80000	80000
44	55	44800	67200	78500	80000	80000	80000
45	56	44800	67200	79500	80000	80000	80000
46	57	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
47	58	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
48	59	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
49	60	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000

## TABLE OF MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHTS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2	Distance in feet						
3	between axle						
4	centers of first						
5	and last axles						
6	of any group						
7	of two or more						
8	consecutive axles						
9		2	3	4	5	6	7
10		axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles
11	61	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
12	62	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
13	63	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
14	64	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
15	65	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
16	66	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
17	67	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
18	68	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
19	69	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000
20	70	44800	67200	80000	80000	80000	80000

21  
 22 c. The dimensional and weight restrictions set forth herein  
 23 shall not apply to a combination of vehicles which includes a  
 24 disabled vehicle or a combination of vehicles being removed from  
 25 a highway in this State, provided that such oversize or overweight  
 26 vehicle combination may not travel on the public highways more  
 27 than five miles from the point where such disablement occurred.  
 28 If the disablement occurred on a limited access highway, the  
 29 distance to the nearest exit of such highway shall be added to the  
 30 five-mile limitation.

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

35 (1) To operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or  
 36 special mobile equipment, transporting one piece loads that  
 37 cannot be dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply  
 38 with the weight limitations set forth in this act. The special  
 39 written permit issued by the director shall be in the possession of  
 40 the driver or operator of the vehicle or combination of vehicles  
 41 or special mobile equipment for which said permit was issued; and

42 (2) To operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or  
 43 specialized mobile equipment, transporting a load or cargo that  
 44 cannot be dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply  
 45 with the dimensional limitations set forth in this act. The special  
 46 written permit shall be in the possession of the driver or operator  
 47 of the vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
 48 equipment for which the permit was issued; and

49 (3) Under emergency conditions, to operate or move a type of

1 vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of  
2 a size or weight, including load or contents, which exceeds the  
3 maximum size or weight limitations specified in this act.

4 (cf: P.L.1989, c.47, s.1.)

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8 MOTOR VEHICLES

9

10 Authorizes 53-foot semitrailers to be operated in the State.

1 five-mile limitation.

2 d. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles may  
3 promulgate rules and regulations, including the establishment of  
4 fees, for the issuance, at his discretion and if good cause appears,  
5 of a special 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  
8 cannot be dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply  
9 with the weight limitations set forth in this act. The special  
10 written permit issued by the director shall be in the possession of  
11 the driver or operator of the vehicle or combination of vehicles  
12 or special mobile 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  
15 cannot be dismembered, dismantled or divided in order to comply  
16 with the dimensional limitations set forth in this act. The special  
17 written permit shall be in the possession of the driver or operator  
18 of the vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile  
19 equipment for which the 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  
22 a size or weight, including load or contents, which exceeds the  
23 maximum size or weight limitations specified in this act.

24 (cf: P.L.1989, c.47, s.1.)

25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

26

27

28

#### STATEMENT

29

30 This bill authorizes a maximum length of 53 feet for  
31 semitrailers as part of a semitrailer-truck combination operating  
32 in the State. The bill further provides that in the case of a  
33 semitrailer greater than 48 feet but not more than 53 feet in  
34 length that the distance between the kingpin of the semitrailer  
35 and the centerline of its rear axle or rear axle group not exceed  
36 41 feet and that the semitrailer shall be equipped with a rear-end  
37 protection device of substantial construction consisting of a  
38 continuous lateral beam extending to within four inches of the  
39 lateral extremities of the semitrailer and located not more than  
40 22 inches from the surface as measured with the vehicle empty  
41 and on a level surface.

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#### MOTOR VEHICLES

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46 Authorizes 53-foot semitrailers to be operated in the State.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3458

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 1990

The Assembly Transportation Committee favorably reports Assembly, No. 3458 of 1990, with committee amendments.

The bill, as amended, authorizes a maximum length of 53 feet for semitrailers as part of a semitrailer-truck combination operating in the State. New Jersey is currently one of a group of 10 states and the District of Columbia which do not permit the operation of 53-foot semitrailers. The remaining continental states do permit the operation of these semitrailers. The bill, as amended, further provides that, in the case of a semitrailer greater than 48 feet but not more than 53 feet in length, the distance between the kingpin of the semitrailer and the centerline of its rear axle or rear axle group not exceed 41 feet and that the semitrailer shall be equipped with a rear-end protection device of substantial construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the semitrailer and located not more than 22 inches from the surface as measured with the vehicle empty and on a level surface.

The committee amended the bill to include the following specifications for 53-foot semitrailers:

- 1) The kingpin of the trailer shall be set back further than 3.5 feet from the front of the semitrailer;
- 2) The rear overhang, measured from the center of the rear tandem axles to the rear of the semitrailer, shall not exceed 35% of the semitrailer's wheelbase;
- 3) The tractor wheelbase shall not exceed 20 feet between the center of the front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles;
- 4) The width of the semitrailer and the distance between the outside edges of the trailer tires shall be no more than 102 inches, and;
- 5) The vehicle shall be equipped with reflectorization consistent with federal reflectorization standards.

In addition, the committee amended the bill to allow the Commissioner of Transportation to promulgate rules and regulations specifying on what roadways these semitrailers may operate but required these rules and regulations to be no more stringent than those promulgated under any federal law, rule or regulation.