

HOUSE BILL 924

By Lamberth

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 7, relative to vehicle size, weight, and
load.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-7-201(d), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(d) Motor vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor and twin trailer combination shall be permitted to operate on the national network of highways, including interstate highways and the additional highways identified in 23 CFR Part 658, Appendix A; provided, that neither of the towed vehicles shall exceed twenty-eight feet six inches (28' 6") in length.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-7-201(e), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(e) No twin trailer truck authorized by this chapter shall be operated on any highway designated as a scenic highway under the authority of title 54, chapter 17. The national network of highways, including interstate highways and the additional highways identified in 23 CFR Part 658, Appendix A, shall not be considered scenic routes for purposes of this chapter.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-7-201, is amended by adding the following language as new subsections (i), (j), and (k):

(i)

(1) Notwithstanding any other maximum vehicle length provision of this section, a stinger-steered automobile transporter with a front overhang of less

than four feet (4') and a rear overhang of less than six feet (6') shall be permitted to operate on the national network of highways, including interstate highways and the additional highways identified in 23 CFR Part 658, Appendix A, up to a maximum vehicle length of eighty feet (80').

(2) For purposes of this subsection (i), a "stinger-steered automobile transporter" means an automobile transporter, which is a vehicle combination designed and used specifically for the transport of assembled automobiles, that has a fifth wheel located on a drop frame behind and below the rear-most axle of the power unit.

(j)

(1) Notwithstanding any other maximum vehicle length provision of this section, a towaway trailer transporter combination shall be permitted to operate on the national network of highways, including interstate highways and the additional highways identified in 23 CFR Part 658, Appendix A, up to a maximum vehicle length of eighty-two feet (82').

(2) For purposes of this subsection (j), a "towaway trailer transporter combination" means a combination of vehicles consisting of a trailer transporter towing unit and two (2) trailers or semitrailers in which:

(A) The total weight does not exceed twenty-six thousand pounds (26,000 lbs.); and

(B) The trailers or semitrailers carry no property and constitute inventory of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers or semitrailers.

(k) This section shall be enforced in accordance with all applicable provisions of federal law regarding the operation of vehicles on the national network of highways, including interstate highways and the additional highways identified in 23 CFR Part 658, Appendix A.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-7-202, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (f):

(f) This section shall be enforced in accordance with all applicable provisions of federal law regarding the operation of vehicles on the national network of highways, including interstate highways and the additional highways identified in 23 CFR Part 658, Appendix A.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-7-203(b), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (9):

(9)

(A) To the extent required by federal law, a vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas may exceed any vehicle weight limit under this section, up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of eighty-two thousand pounds (82,000 lbs.), by an amount that is equal to the difference between:

(i) The weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle; and

(ii) The weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.

(B) Subdivision (b)(9)(A) applies only when a vehicle is operating on the interstate highway system or within terminals and facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest with reasonable access to and from the interstate highway system.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-7-203, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (f):

(f) This section shall be enforced in accordance with all applicable provisions of federal law regarding the operation of vehicles.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.