

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1994 SESSION

## CHAPTER 456

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-1109, 46.2-1112, 46.2-1114, 46.2-1116, 46.2-1117, and 46.2-1126 of the Code of Virginia, relating to length, width, and weight limits on certain vehicles.*

[H 392]

Approved April 8, 1994

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 46.2-1109, 46.2-1112, 46.2-1114, 46.2-1116, 46.2-1117, and 46.2-1126 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 46.2-1109. Widths of commercial vehicles.

No commercial vehicle shall exceed 102 inches in width when operating on any interstate highway or on any ~~federal-aid primary~~ highway designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The width limitation in this section shall not include rear view mirrors, turn signal lights, handholds for cab entry and egress, splash suppressant devices, and load-induced tire bulge. Safety devices, with the exception of rear view mirrors, shall not extend more than three inches on each side of a vehicle. ~~Such vehicles shall not be denied~~ *The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall designate* reasonable access to terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; ~~except as designated, based on safety considerations, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.~~ Household goods carriers and any tractor truck semitrailer combination in which the semitrailer has a length of no more than twenty-eight and one-half feet and which operates as part of a tractor truck semitrailer ~~trailer~~ combination shall not be denied reasonable access to points of loading and unloading, except as designated, based on safety considerations, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. For the purposes of this section, a commercial vehicle is defined as a loaded or empty motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer designed or regularly used for carrying freight, merchandise, or more than ten passengers, including buses, but not including vehicles used for vanpools.

§ 46.2-1112. Length of vehicles, generally; special permits; tractor truck semitrailer combinations, etc., operating on certain highways.

Except for buses, no motor vehicle longer than forty feet shall be operated on any highway in the Commonwealth. The actual length of any combination of vehicles coupled together including any load thereon shall not exceed a total of sixty feet. No bus longer than forty-five feet shall be operated on any highway in the Commonwealth. No tolerance shall be allowed that exceeds twelve inches.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board, however, when good cause is shown, may issue a special permit for combinations either in excess of sixty feet, including any load thereon, or where the object or objects to be carried cannot be moved otherwise. Such permits may also be issued by the Board when the total number of otherwise overdimensional loads of modular housing of no more than two units may be reduced by permitting the use of an overlength trailer not exceeding fifty-four feet.

No overall length restrictions, however, shall be imposed on any tractor truck semitrailer combinations drawing one trailer or any tractor truck semitrailer combinations when operated on any interstate highway or on any ~~federal-aid primary~~ highway as designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. No individual semitrailer or trailer being drawn in a tractor truck semitrailer ~~or~~ trailer combination, however, shall exceed twenty-eight and one-half feet in length, and no semitrailer being operated in a tractor truck semitrailer combination shall exceed forty-eight feet in length, except when semitrailers have ~~an axle spacing of not more than thirty-seven feet between the rear axle of the tractor truck and the front axle of the semitrailer a distance of not more than forty-one feet between the kingpin of the semitrailer and the rearmost axle or a point midway between the rear tandem axles,~~ such semitrailer shall be allowed not more than fifty-three feet in length.

The length limitations on semitrailers and trailers in the foregoing provisions of this section shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices, steps and handholds for entry and egress, rubber dock guards, flexible fender extensions, mudflaps, refrigeration units, and air compressors. ~~Such combinations shall not be denied~~ *The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall designate* reasonable access to terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest; ~~except as designated, based on safety considerations, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.~~ Household goods carriers and any tractor truck semitrailer combination in which the semitrailer has a length of no more than twenty-eight and one-half feet which operates generally as part of a tractor truck semitrailer combination shall not be denied reasonable access to points of loading and unloading, except as designated, based on safety considerations, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

§ 46.2-1114. Length of automobile or watercraft transporters; operation on certain highways.

Automobile or watercraft transporters shall not exceed a length of sixty-five feet when operated on any interstate highway or on any ~~federal-aid primary~~ highway as designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Stinger-steered automobile or watercraft transporters shall not exceed a length of

seventy-five feet when operated on any interstate highway or on any ~~qualifying federal-aid primary~~ highway designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. In addition, watercraft may be transported on a truck/trailer combination no more than sixty-five feet long when operated on any interstate highway or on any ~~qualifying federal-aid primary~~ highway designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Any such vehicle shall display a sign of a size and type approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board warning that the vehicle is an over-length vehicle. However, an additional three-foot overhang shall be allowed beyond the front and a four-foot overhang shall be allowed beyond the rear of the vehicle. Such combinations shall have reasonable access to terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest as designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

§ 46.2-1116. Vehicles having more than one trailer, etc., attached thereto; exceptions.

Except as provided in this section and § 46.2-1117, no motor vehicle shall be driven on a highway while drawing or having attached thereto more than one motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer unless such vehicle is being operated under a special permit from the Commonwealth Transportation Board. This limitation, however, shall not apply between sunrise and sunset to farm trailers or semitrailers being moved from one farm to another farm owned or operated by the same person within a radius of ten miles. This limitation also shall not apply to a combination of vehicles coupled together by a saddle mount device used to transport motor vehicles in a drive-away service when not more than two saddle mounts are used. Vehicles coupled together by not more than three saddle mounts shall not exceed ~~sixty-five~~ *seventy-five* feet when operated on any interstate highway or any ~~federal-aid~~ primary highway as designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

~~Such combinations shall have~~ *The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall designate* reasonable access to terminals and facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest as ~~designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board~~. Such use shall be in conformity with safety regulations adopted by the Superintendent of State Police.

The governing body of any city may by ordinance permit motor vehicles to be driven on the highways of their respective cities while drawing or having attached thereto more than one other vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer.

§ 46.2-1117. Tractor truck semitrailer combinations operating on certain highways; access to certain facilities.

A tractor truck semitrailer combination may draw one trailer when operating on any interstate highway and any ~~federal-aid primary~~ highway as designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. ~~Such combination shall have~~ *The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall designate* reasonable access to terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest, and points of loading and unloading for carriers of household goods.

§ 46.2-1126. Maximum gross weight, generally.

Except as provided in § 46.2-1128, the gross weight imposed on the highway by a vehicle or combination shall not exceed the maximum weight given for the respective distance between the first and last axle of the vehicle or combination, nor shall any two or more consecutive axles exceed the maximum weight given, when measured longitudinally ~~to the nearest foot with any fraction of a foot rounded to the next highest~~ as set forth in the following table:

Distance in feet

between the  
extremes of  
any group of  
two or more  
consecutive  
axles

or Maximum weight in  
pounds  
on any group  
of axles

	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
4	34,000	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
5	34,000	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
6	34,000	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
7	34,000	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
8	34,000	34,000	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
9	39,000	42,500	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
10	40,000	43,500	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
11	. . .	44,000	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
12	. . .	45,000	50,000	. . .	. . .	. . .
13	. . .	45,000	50,500	. . .	. . .	. . .
14	. . .	46,500	51,500	. . .	. . .	. . .
15	. . .	47,000	52,000	. . .	. . .	. . .
16	. . .	48,000	52,500	58,000	. . .	. . .
17	. . .	48,500	53,500	58,500	. . .	. . .

18	. . .	49,500	54,000	59,000	. . .	. . .
19	. . .	50,000	54,500	60,000	. . .	. . .
20	. . .	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	. . .
21	. . .	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	. . .
22	. . .	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	. . .
23	. . .	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	. . .
24	. . .	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
25	. . .	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
26	. . .	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
27	. . .	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
28	. . .	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
29	. . .	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
30	. . .	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
31	. . .	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
32	. . .	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
33	. . .	. . .	64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
34	. . .	. . .	64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
35	. . .	. . .	65,500	70,000	75,000	. . .
36	. . .	. . .	66,000	70,500	75,500	. . .
37	. . .	. . .	66,500	71,000	76,000	. . .
38	. . .	. . .	67,500	72,000	77,000	. . .
39	. . .	. . .	68,000	72,500	77,500	. . .
40	. . .	. . .	68,500	73,000	78,000	. . .
41	. . .	. . .	69,500	73,500	78,500	. . .
42	. . .	. . .	70,000	74,000	79,000	. . .
43	. . .	. . .	70,500	75,000	80,000	. . .
44	. . .	. . .	71,500	75,500	. . .	. . .
45	. . .	. . .	72,000	76,000	. . .	. . .
46	. . .	. . .	72,500	76,500	. . .	. . .
47	. . .	. . .	73,500	77,500	. . .	. . .
48	. . .	. . .	74,000	78,000	. . .	. . .
49	. . .	. . .	74,500	78,500	. . .	. . .
50	. . .	. . .	75,500	79,000	. . .	. . .
51	. . .	. . .	76,000	80,000	. . .	. . .