

Introduced: 3/10/66  
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 504

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the size, weight and  
7 load limits of all vehicles."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. AS 28 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 12. SIZE, WEIGHT AND LOAD LIMITS.

11 Sec. 28.12.010. WIDTH OF VEHICLES. The total outside  
12 transverse dimension of a vehicle, excluding approved safety  
13 devices, such as tire chains, rear-view mirrors, clearance  
14 lights, rub rails, turning signal brackets, and tire bulge  
15 due to loads, shall not exceed 102 inches.

16 Sec. 28.12.020. PROJECTING LOADS ON PASSENGER VEHICLES.  
17 No passenger-type vehicle may be operated on a highway with  
18 any load carried on it extending beyond the line of the  
19 fenders on the left side of the vehicle or extending more  
20 than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right  
21 side of the vehicle.

22 Sec. 28.12.030. HEIGHT AND LENGTH OF VEHICLES AND LOADS.  
23 (a) The total vertical dimension of any vehicle including  
24 the load thereon above the ground surface shall not exceed  
25 13 feet six inches.

26 (b) The total longitudinal dimension of any vehicle or  
27 combination of vehicles, excluding approved safety devices,  
28 and the additional length of individual vehicles in a com-  
29 bination of vehicles when the excess length is due to

1 auxilliary parts, equipment, or machinery not used as space  
2 to carry any part of the load, when the additional length  
3 does not increase the length of the combination, shall not  
4 exceed the following:

- 5 (1) single truck or truck-tractor - 40 feet;  
6 (2) single bus - 40 feet;  
7 (3) truck-tractor and semitrailer combination -  
8 60 feet;  
9 (4) other combination - 65 feet.

10 Sec. 28.12.040. SPECIAL LENGTH LIMITS. (a) Subject to  
11 the limitations in this chapter as to the length of vehicles  
12 and loads, the load upon a vehicle operated alone or the load  
13 upon the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles shall not  
14 extend more than three feet beyond the foremost part of the  
15 vehicle, and the load upon a vehicle operated alone or the  
16 load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of vehicles shall  
17 not extend more than six feet beyond the rear of the bed or  
18 body of the vehicle.

19 (b) The limitations as to length of vehicles and loads  
20 shall not apply to a load upon a pole trailer when transport-  
21 ing poles or pipes or structural material which cannot be  
22 dismembered, provided that no pole or pipe or other material  
23 exceeding 80 feet in length shall be so transported unless a  
24 permit has first been obtained as authorized in sec. 100 of  
25 this chapter.

26 Sec. 28.12.050. LOADS ON VEHICLES. (a) No vehicle may  
27 be driven or moved on a highway unless the vehicle is con-  
28 structed or loaded so as to prevent any of its load from  
29 dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping, except that

1 sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or  
2 water or other substance may be sprinkled on a roadway in  
3 cleaning or maintaining the roadway.

4 (b) No person may operate on a highway a vehicle with  
5 a load unless the load and any covering on the load is  
6 securely fastened so as to prevent the covering or load from  
7 becoming loose, detached or in any manner a hazard to other  
8 users of the highway.

9 Sec. 28.12.060. TRAILERS AND TOWED VEHICLES. (a) When  
10 one vehicle is towing another the drawbar or other connection  
11 shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed by  
12 it and the drawbar or other connection shall not exceed 15  
13 feet from one vehicle to the other except the connection  
14 between two vehicles transporting poles, pipes, machinery or  
15 other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be  
16 dismembered.

17 (b) When one vehicle is towing another and the connec-  
18 tion exceeds eight feet in length there shall be displayed  
19 upon the connection a white flag or cloth not less than 12  
20 inches square.

21 Sec. 28.12.070. AXLE LOAD LIMITS. (a) The gross  
22 weight imposed on the highway by all wheels whose centers  
23 are included between two parallel transverse vertical planes  
24 40 inches apart, extending across the full width of the  
25 vehicle shall not exceed 20,000 pounds.

26 (b) Any two or more consecutive axles whose centers are  
27 more than 40 inches and less than 72 inches apart shall be  
28 defined as a tandem axle and shall not impose a load on the  
29 highway through all axles of more than 36,000 pounds,

1 provided that any single axle in the group shall not exceed  
2 the maximum weight specified in (a) of this section.

3 (c) Solid rubber tires and steel or metal tires shall  
4 not be operated on pavements except under special permit.

5 (d) Tractors with lugs shall not be operated on pave-  
6 ments, except at designated crossing points properly planked  
7 and safeguarded.

8 Sec. 28.12.080. GROSS WEIGHT OF VEHICLES AND LOADS.

9 No vehicle or combination of vehicles, subject to the limita-  
10 tions imposed on axle loads, may be moved or operated on a  
11 highway or bridge when the gross weight exceeds that expressed  
12 by the formula:

$$13 \quad W = 500 \left( \frac{LN}{N-7} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

14 where W = maximum gross weight in pounds.

15 N = number of axles supporting the vehicle or combina-  
16 tion.

17 L = is the distance in feet, measured longitudinally,  
18 between first and last axle of the vehicle or combination.

19 Sec. 28.12.090. OFFICERS MAY WEIGH VEHICLES AND RE-  
20 QUIRE REMOVAL OF EXCESS LOADS. (a) A peace officer having  
21 reason to believe that the weight of a vehicle and load is  
22 unlawful may require the driver to stop and submit to a  
23 weighing of the vehicle and load by means of either portable  
24 or stationary scales and may require that the vehicle be  
25 driven to the nearest highway or public scale.

26 (b) When stationary scales are in operation, all  
27 trucks shall stop and submit to weighing and vehicle in-  
28 spection.

29 (c) Whenever an officer upon weighing a vehicle and

1 load, as provided in this section, determines that the weight  
2 is unlawful, the officer may require the driver to stop the  
3 vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until such  
4 portion of the load is removed as may be necessary to reduce  
5 the gross weight of the vehicle to the permitted limit. All  
6 material unloaded shall be cared for by the owner or operator  
7 of the vehicle at the risk of the owner or operator.

8 (d) A driver of a vehicle who fails or refuses to stop  
9 and submit the vehicle and load to a weighing or who fails or  
10 refuses when directed by an officer upon a weighing of the  
11 vehicle to stop the vehicle and otherwise comply with this  
12 section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

13 Sec. 28.12.100. PERMITS FOR EXCESS SIZE AND WEIGHT.

14 (a) The Department of Highways in its discretion upon  
15 application in writing and good cause being shown, may issue  
16 a special permit in writing authorizing the applicant to  
17 operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a  
18 size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum  
19 specified in this chapter or otherwise not in conformity  
20 with this chapter upon any highway under the jurisdiction of  
21 the department and for the maintenance of which it is respon-  
22 sible.

23 (b) The Department of Public Safety may issue permits  
24 for the operation of vehicles of a size or weight exceeding  
25 the maximums specified in amounts and under conditions  
26 established by the Department of Highways.

27 (c) The application for a permit shall specifically  
28 describe the vehicle or vehicles and load to be operated or  
29 moved and the particular highways for which permit to

1 operate is requested, and whether or not the permit is re-  
2 quested for a single trip or for continuous operation.

3 (d) The Department of Highways and the Department of  
4 Public Safety may issue or withhold the permit at its dis-  
5 cretion or if the permit is issued, to limit the number of  
6 trips, or to establish seasonal or other time limitations  
7 within which the vehicles described may be operated on the  
8 highways indicated, or otherwise to limit or prescribe  
9 conditions of operation of the vehicle or vehicles, when  
10 necessary to provide for the safety of other persons using  
11 the highway or to assure against damage to the road founda-  
12 tions, surfaces or structures, and may require such under-  
13 taking of other security as may be considered necessary to  
14 compensate for an injury to a roadway or road structure.

15 (e) Permits shall be carried in the vehicle or combina-  
16 tion of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to  
17 inspection by a peace officer or authorized agent of any  
18 authority granting the permit, and no person may violate any  
19 of the terms or conditions of the special permit.

20 Sec. 28.12.110. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE DEPARTMENT  
21 OF HIGHWAYS MAY RESTRICT RIGHT TO USE HIGHWAYS. The Depart-  
22 ment of Highways may prohibit the operation of vehicles upon  
23 a highway or may impose restrictions as to the weight of  
24 vehicles and the speed of vehicles operated upon a highway,  
25 whenever the highway by reason of deterioration, rain, snow  
26 or other climatic conditions will be seriously damaged or  
27 destroyed unless the use of vehicles on it is prohibited or  
28 the permissible weights and speeds of the vehicles reduced.  
29 Those restrictions shall be effective after due notice has

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been given to the public and when signs giving notice of the restriction are erected upon the highway or portion of the highway affected.

Sec. 28.12.120. SCOPE AND EFFECT. (a) It is a misdemeanor for a person to drive or move or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved on a highway a vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations stated in this chapter or otherwise in violation of this chapter.

(b) Provisions of this chapter governing size, weight and load shall not apply to fire apparatus, road machinery, or to implements of husbandry, temporarily moved upon a highway, or to a vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued under this chapter.