

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 158, *approved July 3, 1997*
Assembly, No. 1549

1 AN ACT concerning commercial motor vehicles and amending
2 R.S.39:4-46.

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

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7 1. R.S.39:4-46 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:4-46. a. Every vehicle used for commercial purposes on a
9 street or highway, except for passenger automobiles and vehicles
10 owned or leased by a pharmacy and utilized for the transportation or
11 delivery of drugs, shall have conspicuously displayed thereon, or on a
12 name plate affixed thereto, the name of the owner, lessee or lessor of
13 the vehicle and the name of the municipality in which the owner, lessee
14 or lessor has his principal place of business. Franchised public utilities
15 and operators of fleets of 50 or more commercial vehicles, shall be
16 exempted from displaying the name of the municipality, provided that
17 their vehicles display a corporate identification number. The sign or
18 name plate shall be in plain view and not less than three inches high.
19 Where available space for lettering is limited, either by the design of
20 the vehicle or by the presence of other legally specified identification
21 markings, making a strict compliance herewith impractical, the size of
22 the lettering required by this section shall be as close to three inches
23 high as is possible, within the limited space area, provided the name is
24 clearly visible and readily identifiable. In the case of a combination of
25 two vehicles the requirements of this section will be served when
26 either unit of the combination conforms with the above identification
27 specifications. No person shall operate or drive or cause or permit to
28 be operated or driven on a road or highway a commercial vehicle,
29 except for passenger automobiles and vehicles owned or leased by a
30 pharmacy and utilized for the transportation or delivery of drugs,
31 which does not conform hereto.

32 For purposes of this section, a franchised public utility means a
33 public utility, as defined in R.S.48:2-13, that has a defined
34 geographical service territory approved by the Board of Public

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 Utilities.

2 b. Every owner of a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section
3 3 of P.L.1990, c.103 (C.39:3-10.11) which has a gross vehicle weight
4 rating or a combined gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or
5 more and is registered or principally garaged in this State shall display
6 the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) for the vehicle in the manner
7 set forth in subsection a. of this section. For purposes of this
8 subsection, GVWR means the value specified by the manufacturer as
9 the maximum loaded weight of a single or combination (articulated)
10 vehicle, or registered gross weight, whichever is greater. Any person
11 who knowingly displays or causes to be displayed on a commercial
12 motor vehicle a GVWR less than the actual GVWR, or an owner who
13 knowingly permits a commercial motor vehicle owned by him to be
14 operated in this State with a displayed GVWR less than the actual
15 GVWR shall, for each offense, be fined not more than \$5,000, or
16 imprisoned for a term of not more than 90 days, or both.
17 (cf: P.L.1990, c.103, s.32)

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19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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24 Vehicles used for commercial purposes, except passenger
25 automobiles, are required to display the name of the owner or lessor
26 of the vehicle and the name of the municipality in which the business
27 is located in letters at least three inches high. This bill grants an
28 exception to this law for vehicles owned or leased by pharmacies
29 which are used for the transportation or delivery of drugs. These
30 vehicles have become a target for robbery by thieves who use or sell
31 illicit drugs. This bill is intended to make these vehicles less obvious
32 to these would-be criminals.

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38 Permits pharmacies to remove identifying signs from commercial
vehicles.