

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 313, *approved January 8, 1998*  
Assembly, No. 2057

1 **AN ACT** concerning the operation of certain commercial vehicles and  
2 amending R.S.39:3-20.

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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.39:3-20 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:3-20. For the purpose of this section, gross weight means the  
9 weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, including load or  
10 contents.

11 a. The director is authorized to issue registrations for commercial  
12 motor vehicles other than omnibuses or motor-drawn vehicles upon  
13 application therefor and payment of a fee based on the gross weight of  
14 the vehicle, including the gross weight of all vehicles in any  
15 combination of vehicles of which the commercial motor vehicle is the  
16 drawing vehicle. The gross weight of a disabled commercial vehicle  
17 or combination of disabled commercial vehicles being removed from  
18 a highway shall not be included in the calculation of the registration  
19 fee for the drawing vehicle.

20 Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, every registration  
21 for a commercial motor vehicle other than an omnibus or motor-drawn  
22 vehicle shall expire and the certificate thereof shall become void on the  
23 last day of the eleventh calendar month following the month in which  
24 the certificate was issued; provided, however, that the director may  
25 require registrations which shall expire, and issue certificates thereof  
26 which shall become void, on a date fixed by the director, which shall  
27 not be sooner than three months or later than 26 months after the date  
28 of issuance of such certificates, and the fees for such registrations or  
29 registration applications, including any other fees or charges collected  
30 in connection with the registration fee, shall be fixed by the director in  
31 amounts proportionately less or greater than the fees established by  
32 law. The director may fix the expiration date for registration  
33 certificates at a date other than 11 months if the director determines

**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 that such change is necessary, appropriate or convenient in order to  
2 aid in implementing the vehicle inspection requirements of chapter 8  
3 of Title 39 or for other good cause. The minimum registration fee  
4 shall be as follows:

5 For vehicles not in excess of 5,000 pounds, \$53.50.

6 For vehicles in excess of 5,000 pounds and not in excess of 18,000  
7 pounds, \$53.50 plus \$11.50 for each 1,000 pounds or portion thereof  
8 in excess of 5,000 pounds.

9 For vehicles in excess of 18,000 pounds and not in excess of 50,000  
10 pounds, \$53.50 plus \$12.50 for each 1,000 pounds or portion thereof  
11 in excess of 5,000 pounds.

12 For vehicles in excess of 50,000 pounds, \$53.50 plus \$13.50 for  
13 each 1,000 pounds or portion thereof in excess of 5,000 pounds.

14 b. The director is also authorized to issue registrations for  
15 commercial motor vehicles having three or more axles and a gross  
16 weight over 40,000 pounds but not exceeding 70,000 pounds, upon  
17 application therefor and proof to the satisfaction of the director that  
18 the applicant is actually engaged in construction work or in the  
19 business of supplying material, transporting material, or using such  
20 registered vehicle for construction work.

21 Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, every registration  
22 for these commercial motor vehicles shall expire and the certificate  
23 thereof shall become void on the last day of the eleventh calendar  
24 month following the month in which the certificate was issued;  
25 provided, however, that the director may require registrations which  
26 shall expire, and issue certificates thereof which shall become void on  
27 a date fixed by the director, which shall not be sooner than three  
28 months or later than 26 months after the date of issuance of such  
29 certificates, and the fees for such registrations or registration  
30 applications, including any other fees or charges collected in  
31 connection with the registration fee, shall be fixed by the director in  
32 amounts proportionately less or greater than the fees established by  
33 law. The director may fix the expiration date for registration  
34 certificates at a date other than 11 months if the director determines  
35 that such change is necessary, appropriate or convenient in order to  
36 aid in implementing the vehicle inspection requirements of chapter 8  
37 of Title 39 or for other good cause.

38 The registration fee shall be \$22.50 for each 1,000 pounds or  
39 portion thereof.

40 For purposes of calculating this fee, weight means the gross weight,  
41 including the gross weight of all vehicles in any combination of which  
42 such commercial motor vehicle is the drawing vehicle.

43 Such commercial motor vehicle shall be operated in compliance  
44 with the speed limitations of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and shall  
45 not be operated at a speed greater than [30] 45 miles per hour when  
46 one or more of its axles has a load which exceeds the limitations

1 prescribed in R.S.39:3-84.

2 c. The director is also authorized to issue registrations for each of  
3 the following solid waste vehicles: two-axle vehicles having a gross  
4 weight not exceeding 42,000 pounds; tandem three-axle and four-axle  
5 vehicles having a gross weight not exceeding 60,000 pounds; four-axle  
6 tractor-trailer combination vehicles having a gross weight not  
7 exceeding 60,000 pounds. Registration is based upon application to  
8 the director and proof to his satisfaction that the applicant is actually  
9 engaged in the performance of solid waste disposal or collection  
10 functions and holds a certificate of convenience and necessity therefor  
11 issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.

12 Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, every registration  
13 for a solid waste vehicle shall expire and the certificate thereof shall  
14 become void on the last day of the eleventh calendar month following  
15 the month in which the certificate was issued.

16 The registration fee shall be \$50 plus \$11.50 for each 1,000 pounds  
17 or portion thereof in excess of 5,000 pounds.

18 d. The director is also authorized to issue registrations for  
19 commercial motor-drawn vehicles upon application therefor. The  
20 registration year for commercial motor-drawn vehicles shall be April  
21 1 to the following March 31 and the fee therefor shall be \$18 for each  
22 such vehicle.

23 At the discretion of the director, an applicant for registration for a  
24 commercial motor-drawn vehicle may be provided the option of  
25 registering such vehicle for a period of four years. In the event that  
26 the applicant for registration exercises the four-year option, a fee of  
27 \$64 for each such vehicle shall be paid to the director in advance.

28 If any commercial motor-drawn vehicle registered for a four-year  
29 period is sold or withdrawn from use on the highways, the director  
30 may, upon surrender of the vehicle registration and plate, refund \$16  
31 for each full year of unused prepaid registration.

32 e. It shall be unlawful for any vehicle or combination of vehicles  
33 registered under this act, having a gross weight, including load or  
34 contents, in excess of the gross weight provided on the registration  
35 certificate to be operated on the highways of this State.

36 The owner, lessee, bailee or any one of the aforesaid of a vehicle or  
37 combination of vehicles, including load or contents, found or operated  
38 on any public road, street or highway or on any public or quasi-public  
39 property in this State with a gross weight of that vehicle or  
40 combination of vehicles, including load or contents, in excess of the  
41 weight limitation permitted by the certificate of registration for the  
42 vehicle or combination of vehicles, pursuant to the provisions of this  
43 section, shall be assessed a penalty of \$500 plus an amount equal to  
44 \$100 for each 1,000 pounds or fractional portion of 1,000 pounds of  
45 weight in excess of the weight limitation permitted by the certificate  
46 of registration for that vehicle or combination of vehicles. A vehicle

1 or combination of vehicles for which there is no valid certificate of  
2 registration is deemed to have been registered for zero pounds for the  
3 purposes of the enforcement of this act, in addition to any other  
4 violation of this Title, but is not deemed to be lawfully or validly  
5 registered pursuant to the provisions of this Title.

6 This section shall not be construed to supersede or repeal the  
7 provisions of section 39:3-84, 39:4-75, or 39:4-76 of this Title.

8 f. Of the registration fees collected by the director pursuant to this  
9 section for vehicles with gross vehicle weights in excess of 5,000  
10 pounds, an amount equal to \$3 per 1,000 pounds or portion thereof in  
11 excess of 5,000 pounds for each registration shall be forwarded to the  
12 State Treasurer for deposit in the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement  
13 Fund established pursuant to section 17 of this act (C.39:8-75).  
14 Moneys in the fund shall be used by the Department of Law and Public  
15 Safety and the Department of Transportation for enforcement of laws  
16 and regulations governing commercial motor vehicles.

17 (cf: P.L. 1995, c.157, s.34)

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19 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month  
20 following enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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25 This bill amends R.S. 39:3-20 to increase the legal speed limit for  
26 certain commercial vehicles.

27 Under current law, Class 41 construction vehicles, which are  
28 commercial vehicles having three or more axles and a gross weight  
29 over 40,000, but not exceeding 70,000 pounds, may not be operated  
30 at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour.

31 This amendatory bill would increase the permissible speed limit for  
32 such vehicles to 45 miles per hour.

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Increases legal speed limit for certain commercial vehicles to 45 mph.