

SENATE, No. 2048

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 1997

By Senator PALAIA

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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## 22 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.