

No. 198

AN ACT

SB 212

Amending the act of April 29, 1959 (P.L.58), entitled "An act consolidating and revising the Vehicle Code, the Tractor Code, the Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Act and other acts relating to the ownership, possession and use of vehicles and tractors," providing for the registration, inspection, equipment and operation of fertilizer trailers and requiring safety chains on certain combinations of vehicles.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 102, act of April 29, 1959 (P.L.58), known as "The Vehicle Code," is amended by adding after the definition of "Farm Tractor" a new definition to read:

Section 102. Definitions.—The following words and phrases when used in this act shall, for the purpose of this act, have the following meanings, respectively, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

* * *

***"Fertilizer Trailer."*—Every vehicle without motive power which is designed or used primarily for bringing fertilizers or fertilizing solutions back and forth between one farm and another or from a source of supply to a farm or field which is limited to operation upon the highways in this Commonwealth during the hours of daylight only (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset).**

* * *

Section 2. Subsection (a) of section 707 of the act, amended March 3, 1970 (Act No. 39), is amended to read:

Section 707. Trailers and Semi-Trailers.—(a) The fee for annual registration of a mobilehome, house trailer, office trailer, [or] boat trailer **or fertilizer trailer** shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00).

* * *

Section 3. Subsections (d), (e), clauses (1), (2) and (3) of subsection (g) and the penalty clause of section 801 of the act amended April 28, 1961 (P.L.107) and September 16, 1961 (P.L.1373), are amended, and said section is also amended by adding a new subsection, to read:

Section 801. Required Lighting Equipment.—

* * *

(d) Rear Lamps and Illumination of Rear Registration Plate.—Every motor vehicle, and every trailer or semi-trailer attached to a motor vehicle, **except fertilizer trailers**, and every vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles, shall carry at the rear at least two (2) lamps of a type which at the time of their use is approved by the secretary, and which exhibit a red light, plainly visible under normal atmospheric

conditions at night from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear of such vehicle. Such rear lamps or a separate lamp shall be so constructed and placed that the number plate carried on the rear of such vehicle shall, under like conditions, be so illuminated by a white light as to be read from a distance of fifty (50) feet to the rear of such vehicle. When the rear number plate is illuminated by an electric lamp, other than the required rear lamps, the three (3) lamps shall be turned on or off only by the same control switch at all times whenever head lamps are lighted: Provided, however, That the requirement of at least two (2) red rear lamps on such vehicles shall not apply to tractors, motorcycles, truck tractors and towing vehicles in driveaway-towaway operations, which shall carry at least one (1) rear lamp which exhibits a red light plainly visible to the rear.

(e) Stop Lamps.—Every motor vehicle, and every trailer or semi-trailer attached to a motor vehicle, *except fertilizer trailers*, and every vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles, shall carry at the rear at least two (2) stop lamps, one (1) on each side of the rear of the vehicle of a type which, at the time of their use, are approved by the Secretary of Revenue, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. Tractors, truck tractors and towing vehicles in driveaway-towaway operations shall carry at least one (1) stop lamp.

* * *

(g) Commercial Motor Vehicles, Trailers, Semi-Trailers, Buses and Omnibuses.—* * *

(1) Electric Clearance Lamps.—Every such vehicle, having a width at any part of eighty (80) inches or more, and every combination of vehicles engaged in a driveaway-towaway operation, shall be equipped with two (2) electric clearance lamps located on the front and displaying an amber light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle, and two (2) electric clearance lamps located at the rear of the vehicle and displaying a red light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear of the vehicle, and said rear electric clearance lamp shall be in addition to the red rear lamp hereinbefore required.

Clearance lamps are not required on a pole trailer or on the rear of a truck tractor *or fertilizer trailer*. On driveaway-towaway combinations, they are required only on the front of the towing vehicle and the rear of the rearmost towed vehicle. So far as is practicable they shall be mounted to indicate the extreme width and height of the vehicle, except that on truck tractors they shall be so located as to indicate the extreme width of the cab.

(2) Electric Identification Lamps, Front and Rear.—Every such motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer, excepting those house trailers, mobile-homes and office trailers, which must obtain a special hauling permit under section 726 of this act for their movement upon a highway within this Commonwealth, or combination of such vehicles having a width of eighty (80) inches or more, and every combination of vehicles

engaged in a driveaway-towaway operation having any vehicle therein eighty (80) inches or more in over-all width, shall be equipped with electric lamps on the front displaying three (3) amber lights and electric lamps on the rear displaying three (3) red lights, except as otherwise provided herein. Such lamps are not required on the rear of truck tractors or on the front of trailers, semi-trailers, pole trailers or any towing vehicle in a driveaway-towaway operation *or on the rear of fertilizer trailers*. The lights in each such group shall be mounted on the vehicle center line of the front and the rear of the vehicle on which they are required. They shall be evenly spaced, not less than six (6) nor more than twelve (12) inches apart, along a horizontal line near the top of the vehicle, and shall be visible from distances of five hundred (500) feet to the front and rear, respectively, of the vehicle. Where the cab of the motor vehicle is not more than forty-two (42) inches wide at the front roof line, a single lamp at the center of the cab shall be deemed to comply with the requirement for front identification lamps. Identification lamps required on the rear of a pole trailer may be mounted on the vertical center line of the rear of the cab of the truck tractor drawing the pole trailer and higher than the load being transported. No part of the front identification lamps or their mountings may extend below the top of the vehicle windshield. Rear identification lamps on a truck trailer or semi-trailer need not be lighted if obscured by another vehicle towed by the truck or in the same combination of vehicles. The requirement for three (3) identification lamps on the vertical center line of the vehicle will be met as to location by one (1) lamp on the center line with the other two (2) at right or left.

(3) **Electric Side Marker Lamps.**—Every such vehicle or combination of such vehicles shall be equipped with at least four (4) electric side marker lamps, one (1) on each side near the front and one (1) on each side near the rear. Said electric lamps near the front shall display amber lights and said electric lamps near the rear shall display red lights, each visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the side of the vehicle on which it is located. Trailers thirty (30) feet or more in length shall be equipped with one (1) additional side marker lamp on each side at optional height, the additional side marker lamp (or lamps) to be at or near the center or at approximately uniform spacing in the length of the vehicle. The side marker lamp required at or near the front and the side marker lamp required at or near the rear shall be mounted as near the top of the vehicle as practicable. If any clearance lamp hereinbefore required displays light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet at right angle to the side of the vehicle at which it is mounted, it shall be deemed to meet the requirement in this paragraph as to the side marker lamp at that approximate location. *This paragraph shall not apply to fertilizer trailers.*

* * *

(m) **Special Lighting Requirements for Fertilizer Trailers.**—All

fertilizer trailers shall be equipped with at least two (2) rear red lights which may be operated by a battery attached to the fertilizer trailer. Such rear red lights shall be required to operate whenever such fertilizer trailer is being towed upon any road, public or private, in this Commonwealth. In addition, fertilizer trailers so equipped and operated shall have attached to the rear of said fertilizer trailer a reflectorized sign of appropriate size bearing the inscription: "CAUTION—NO TURN SIGNALS—NO STOP LIGHTS." The letters of such sign shall be visible at a distance of five hundred (500) feet.

Penalty.—Any person violating any of the provisions of subsection (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) of this section, shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) and costs of prosecution, and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than five (5) days. Any person violating any of the provisions of subsection (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), [or] (l) or (m) of this section shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine of two dollars (\$2.00) and costs of prosecution, and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than one (1) day.

Section 4. The introductory paragraph of subsection (c) of section 802 of the act, amended August 26, 1965 (P.L.382), is amended to read:

Section 802. Additional Lights and Devices.—

* * *

(c) Signal Lamps.—Every motor vehicle and every combination of vehicles, *except fertilizer trailers manufactured before January 1, 1969*, shall be equipped with signal lamps as follows:

* * *

Penalty.—Any person violating any of the provisions of this section, or any person who shall use a warning lamp of the type authorized by subsection (d) of this section while a vehicle is in motion, shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) and costs of prosecution, and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than five (5) days.

Section 5. Subsection (d) of section 816 of the act, amended January 24, 1966 (P.L.1488), is amended to read:

Section 816. Brake Equipment.—

* * *

(d) The service brake system shall act upon all wheels of every motor vehicle and combination except that such system shall not be required to act upon:

(1) A trailer or semi-trailer which, when standing alone, has a gross weight not exceeding three thousand (3,000) pounds, and which, when coupled to its towing vehicle, has a gross weight not exceeding forty percent (40%) of the gross weight of such towing vehicle;

(2) A vehicle being towed in a driveway or towaway operation;

(3) The wheels on one steerable axle of a commercial motor vehicle or truck tractor having three or more axles;

(4) The wheels of a motorcycle simultaneously or the wheel of a sidecar coupled to a motorcycle at any time;

(5) *The wheels of one axle of a double axle fertilizer trailer.*

* * *

Penalty.—Any person violating any of the provisions of this section, shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and costs of prosecution, and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than five (5) days.

Section 6. Subsection (a) of section 834 of the act, amended December 14, 1967 (P.L.808), is amended to read:

Section 834. Official Inspections.—

(a) Every owner of a motor vehicle (including a commercial motor vehicle, motor bus, motor omnibus, truck tractor, trailer, or semi-trailer, but not including a trailer or semi-trailer having a chassis and body weight of less than one thousand (1000) pounds, or bicycle with motor attached, *or fertilizer trailer*), being operated in this Commonwealth, shall submit such motor vehicle to such inspection of its mechanism and equipment as may be designated by the secretary.

Such motor vehicle shall be inspected twice a year on a quarterly inspection cycle. Motor vehicles inspected in the first quarter shall be inspected again during the third quarter; motor vehicles inspected in the second quarter shall be inspected again during the fourth quarter.

The owner of a motor vehicle shall submit it for inspection during the quarterly cycle in accordance with regulations prescribed by the secretary.

Motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, determined by the department to be exempt from registration under the provisions of section 401, subsection (f) of this act, and antique motor vehicles, if either operated on the public highways of this Commonwealth only during the period between sunrise and sunset, shall be exempt from the lighting equipment provisions of this act.

The secretary may, with the approval of the Governor, extend the time for not more than sixty (60) days for any of the inspections required by this section, in any case, where weather conditions of the highways or any other cause whatsoever renders compliance with the provisions of this section within the prescribed time difficult or impossible for a large number of persons.

Owners of Pennsylvania registered vehicles which have been outside of the Commonwealth continuously for thirty (30) days or more and which at the time of reentering the Commonwealth do not bear a currently valid inspection sticker shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of their reentering

the State, proceed to an official inspection station for inspection and approval of the vehicle.

* * *

Section 7. Clause (2) of subsection (c) of section 902 of the act, amended August 23, 1961 (P.L.1118), is amended to read:

Section 902. Size of Vehicles, Tractors and Loads.—

* * *

(c) No motor vehicle or tractor, except motor buses, motor omnibuses and fire department equipment, shall exceed a total maximum length, including any load thereon, of four hundred twenty (420) inches, except that motor vehicles operated under contract with any school district, private school or parochial school for the transportation of school children and motor vehicles owned and operated by school districts, private schools and parochial schools in the transportation of school children, may exceed such total maximum length by sixty (60) inches. No trailer or semi-trailer shall exceed a total maximum length including any load thereon of four hundred eighty (480) inches, excepting that a refrigerating or other device attached to the front exterior of a semi-trailer shall be disregarded in measuring the length of the semi-trailer, if the presence or absence of such device would not affect the length of the combination of vehicles in which such semi-trailer is operated. No combination of two (2) vehicles or tractors shall exceed a total maximum length of six hundred sixty (660) inches inclusive of load and bumpers coupled together. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the transportation by a combination of vehicles of articles impossible of dismemberment, which do not exceed seventy (70) feet, nor the operation of a vehicle equipped with a boom or boom-like device which does not exceed fifty-five (55) feet, in which case such combination of vehicles, or vehicle equipped with a boom or boom-like device, may exceed the total maximum length as hereinbefore set forth by such additional length as may be necessary to transport the articles impossible of dismemberment, or operate the vehicle equipped with a boom or boom-like device, in a safe manner.

* * *

(2) The distance between any two (2) vehicles, or between a tractor and another vehicle, one of which is towing or drawing the other, shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet from one (1) vehicle to the other, except when the load on the towed vehicle is coupled directly to and is not more than five (5) feet from the towing vehicle. Whenever the connection consists of a chain, rope, bar or cable, there shall be displayed, upon such connection, a flag not less than twelve (12) inches in length and width. Every trailer, while being drawn upon the highway, shall be so attached to the vehicle drawing the same as to prevent the wheels of such trailer from deflecting more than six (6) inches from the path of the drawing vehicle's wheels. *Whenever two (2) vehicles are connected by a ball-and-socket type hitch, or pintle hook without a locking device, they shall also be connected by two (2) safety chains of equal length, each safety chain having an*

ultimate strength of at least equal to the gross weight of the vehicle or vehicles being towed. The safety chains shall be crossed and so connected to the towed and towing vehicle and to the tow bar as to prevent the tow bar from dropping to the ground in the event the tow bar fails or becomes disconnected. The safety chains shall have no more slack than is necessary to permit proper turning.

* * *

Penalty.—Any person violating any of the provisions of subsection (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) of this section, shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) and costs of prosecution, and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than five (5) days. Such fine shall be in addition to any penalty imposed by any other section or subsection of this act.

Section 8. The provisions of section 2 shall take effect for the registration year beginning June 1, 1970. All other provisions of the act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 23rd day of July, A. D. 1970.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 198.


Secretary of the Commonwealth.