

Section 8.1. The several courts of common pleas, and the County Court of Allegheny County [and the Municipal Court of Philadelphia] may, by rules of court, provide that all cases which are at issue where the amount in controversy shall be two thousand dollars (\$2000) or less, except those involving title to real estate, shall first be submitted to and heard by a board of three (3) members of the bar within the judicial district. The County Court of Philadelphia may also by such rules fix any amount not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) as the amount in controversy up to which such submissions shall be required. Cases which are not at issue and whether or not suit has been filed may be referred to the board of arbitration by agreement of reference signed by counsel for both sides in the case. Said agreement of reference shall define the issues involved for determination by the board and, when agreeable, shall also contain stipulations with respect to facts submitted or agreed or defenses waived. In such cases, the agreement of reference shall take the place of the pleadings in the case and be filed of record.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 31st day of July, A. D. 1968.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER.

No. 267

AN ACT

HB 924

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," changing limitations as to lengths for vehicles equipped with booms or boom-like devices, and as to weights for tractors, and increasing penalties.

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

Section 1. The first paragraph of subsection (c) of section 902, act of April 29, 1959 (P. L. 58), known as "The Vehicle Code," amended December 7, 1965 (P. L. 1039) and December 7, 1965 (P. L. 1050), 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.

* * *

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 2. Subsection (h) of section 903 of the act, and the paragraph of the penalty clause pertaining to said subsection, amended December 17, 1959 (P. L. 1920), and said paragraph of the penalty clause as amended January 25, 1966 (P. L. 1584), are amended to read:

Section 903. Weight of Vehicles, Tractors and Loads.—

* * *

(h) Tractors shall not be operated or moved upon any highway with gross weight in excess of [thirty thousand (30,000) pounds if of the two (2) axle type and forty thousand (40,000) pounds if of the three (3) axle type] sixty thousand (60,000) pounds. The width of tires on the wheels of tractors shall be sufficient so that,

including the load on the tractor, the weight shall not be in excess of eight hundred (800) pounds on any wheel for each nominal inch of width of tire on each wheel, or with weight upon each of any two

¹ (2) adjacent axles in excess of that specified in subsection (f) of this section.

* * *

Penalty.—

* * *

Any person operating a tractor in violation of subsection (h) of this section, shall, upon summary conviction before a magistrate, be sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine of [fifty dollars (\$50.00)] one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and, in default of the payment thereof, shall undergo imprisonment for not more than [ten (10)] twenty (20) days.

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APPROVED—The 31st day of July, A. D. 1968.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER.

No. 268

AN ACT

HB 961

Amending the act of June 1, 1959 (P. L. 350), entitled "An act relating to the retirement of public school employes; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," permitting certain members to elect membership in the State Employes' Retirement System and making editorial changes.

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

Section 1. Clauses (b) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 201 of the act of June 1, 1959 (P. L. 350), known as the "Public School Employes' Retirement Code of 1959," clause (d) added August 22, 1961 (P. L. 1036), are amended to read:

Section 201. Mandatory and Optional Membership.—

(1) Membership in the retirement system shall be mandatory for all school employes, except the following:

* * *

(b) School employes in the Department of Public Instruction, State [teachers'] colleges, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Thaddeus

¹“(2)” not in original.