

First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0329.01 Chuck Brackney x2295

HOUSE BILL 13-1132

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mitsch Bush and Scott,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Giron,

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House Committees

Transportation & Energy

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING AMENDING STATE LAW TO CONFORM TO FEDERAL  
102 STANDARDS FOR VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITS FOR PURPOSES OF  
103 CONTINUED FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill amends current state law regarding maximum vehicle weight on highways to conform to federal requirements for continued highway funding.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-508, **amend** (1)  
3 as follows:

4 **42-4-508. Gross weight of vehicles and loads.** (1) (a) Except as  
5 provided in subsection (1.5) of this section, ~~no~~ A PERSON SHALL NOT  
6 MOVE OR OPERATE A vehicle or combination of vehicles ~~shall be moved~~  
7 ~~or operated~~ on any highway or bridge when the gross weight thereof  
8 ~~exceeds the limits specified below:~~ UPON ANY ONE AXLE OF A VEHICLE  
9 EXCEEDS THE LIMITS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 42-4-507.

10 ~~(a) (I) The gross weight upon any one axle of a vehicle shall not~~  
11 ~~exceed the limits prescribed in section 42-4-507.~~

12 ~~(II) Subject to the limitations prescribed in section 42-4-507, the~~  
13 ~~gross weight of a vehicle having two axles shall not exceed thirty-six~~  
14 ~~thousand pounds.~~

15 ~~(III) Subject to the limitations prescribed in section 42-4-507, the~~  
16 ~~gross weight of a single vehicle having three or more axles shall not~~  
17 ~~exceed fifty-four thousand pounds.~~

18 (b) Subject to the limitations prescribed in section 42-4-507, the  
19 maximum gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles shall  
20 not exceed that determined by the formula  $W \text{ equals } = 1,000 (L \text{ plus } +$   
21  $40), W =$  WHERE W REPRESENTS the gross weight in pounds  $L =$  AND L  
22 REPRESENTS the length in feet between the centers of the first and last  
23 axles of such vehicle or combination of vehicles; ~~but~~ EXCEPT THAT, in  
24 computation of this formula, ~~no~~ THE gross vehicle weight ~~shall~~ MUST NOT  
25 exceed eighty-five thousand pounds. For the purposes of this section,  
26 where a combination of vehicles is used, ~~no~~ A vehicle ~~shall~~ MUST NOT

1 carry a gross weight of less than ten percent of the overall gross weight  
2 of the combination of vehicles; except that these limitations shall not  
3 apply to specialized trailers of fixed public utilities whose axles may carry  
4 less than ten percent of the weight of the combination. The limitations  
5 provided in this section ~~shall~~ MUST be strictly construed and enforced.

6 (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, except  
7 as may be authorized under section 42-4-510, ~~no~~ A PERSON SHALL NOT  
8 MOVE OR OPERATE A vehicle or combination of vehicles ~~shall be moved~~  
9 ~~or operated~~ on any highway or bridge ~~which~~ THAT is part of the national  
10 system of interstate and defense highways, also known as the interstate  
11 system, when the gross weight of such vehicle or combination of vehicles  
12 exceeds the ~~following specified limits~~: AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE  
13 FORMULA  $W = 500 [(LN/N-1) + 12N + 36]$ , UP TO A MAXIMUM OF EIGHTY  
14 THOUSAND POUNDS, WHERE W REPRESENTS THE OVERALL GROSS WEIGHT  
15 ON ANY GROUP OF TWO OR MORE CONSECUTIVE AXLES TO THE NEAREST  
16 FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS, L REPRESENTS THE DISTANCE IN FEET BETWEEN  
17 THE EXTREME OF ANY GROUP OF TWO OR MORE CONSECUTIVE AXLES, AND  
18 N REPRESENTS THE NUMBER OF AXLES IN THE GROUP.

19 ~~(I) Subject to the limitations prescribed in section 42-4-507, the~~  
20 ~~gross weight of a vehicle having two axles shall not exceed thirty-six~~  
21 ~~thousand pounds.~~

22 ~~(H) Subject to the limitations prescribed in section 42-4-507, the~~  
23 ~~gross weight of a single vehicle having three or more axles shall not~~  
24 ~~exceed fifty-four thousand pounds.~~

25 ~~(HH)(A) Subject to the limitations prescribed in section 42-4-507,~~  
26 ~~the maximum gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles~~  
27 ~~shall not exceed that determined by the formula  $W = 500 [(LN/N-1) +$~~

1 ~~12N + 36~~].

2 ~~(B) In using the formula in sub-subparagraph (A) of this~~  
3 ~~subparagraph (H), W equals overall gross weight on any group of two or~~  
4 ~~more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L equals distance in~~  
5 ~~feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles,~~  
6 ~~and N equals number of axles in the group under consideration; but in~~  
7 ~~computations of this formula no gross vehicle weight shall exceed eighty~~  
8 ~~thousand pounds, except as may be authorized under section 42-4-510.~~

9 ~~(IV) For the purposes of this subsection (1), where a combination~~  
10 ~~of vehicles is used, no vehicle shall carry a gross weight of less than ten~~  
11 ~~percent of the overall gross weight of the combination of vehicles; except~~  
12 ~~that this limitation shall not apply to specialized trailers whose specific~~  
13 ~~use is to haul poles and whose axles may carry less than ten percent of the~~  
14 ~~weight of the combination.~~

15 (d) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), WHERE A  
16 COMBINATION OF VEHICLES IS USED, A VEHICLE MUST NOT CARRY A GROSS  
17 WEIGHT OF LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE OVERALL GROSS WEIGHT OF  
18 THE COMBINATION OF VEHICLES; EXCEPT THAT THIS LIMITATION DOES NOT  
19 APPLY TO SPECIALIZED TRAILERS WHOSE SPECIFIC USE IS TO HAUL POLES  
20 AND WHOSE AXLES MAY CARRY LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE WEIGHT  
21 OF THE COMBINATION.

22 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.