

House Bill 496

By: Representatives Burchett of the 176th, Burns of the 159th, Rhodes of the 120th, Ridley of the 6th, and Williams of the 148th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 32-6-28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 permits for vehicles and loads of excess weight and dimensions, so as to provide for issuance
3 of an annual forest product permit for certain vehicles and loads exceeding weight and
4 dimension maximums; to provide for fees for such permit; to provide for related matters; to
5 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 32-6-28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to permits for
9 vehicles and loads of excess weight and dimensions, by revising subparagraph (a)(1)(A) and
10 subsections (b) and (c) as follows:

11 "(1)(A) The commissioner or an official of the department designated by the
12 commissioner may, in his or her discretion, upon application in writing and good cause
13 being shown therefor, issue a permit in writing authorizing the applicant to operate or
14 move upon the state's public roads a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles and loads
15 whose weight, width, length, or height, or combination thereof, exceeds the maximum
16 limit specified by law, provided that the load transported by such vehicle or vehicles

17 is of such nature that it is a unit which cannot be readily dismantled or separated; and
18 provided, further, that no permit shall be issued to any vehicle whose operation upon
19 the public roads of this state threatens to unduly damage a road or any appurtenance
20 thereto, except that the dismantling limitation specified in this Code section shall not
21 apply to loads which consist of cotton, tobacco, concrete pipe, forest products, and
22 plywood that do not exceed a width of nine feet or of round bales of hay that do not
23 exceed a width of 11 feet and which are not moved on part of The Dwight D.
24 Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways. However, vehicles
25 transporting portable buildings and vehicles not exceeding 65 feet in length transporting
26 boats on roads not a part of The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and
27 Defense Highways, regardless of whether the nature of such buildings or boats is such
28 that they can be readily dismantled or separated, may exceed the lengths and widths
29 established in this article, provided that a special permit for such purposes has been
30 issued as provided in this Code section, but no such special permit shall be issued for
31 a load exceeding 12 feet in width when such load may be readily dismantled or
32 separated. A truck tractor and low boy type trailer may, after depositing its permitted
33 load, return to its point of origin on the authorization of its original permit."

34 "(b) **Duration and limits of permits.**

35 (1) **Annual permit.** The commissioner or an official of the department designated by
36 the commissioner may, pursuant to this Code section, issue an annual permit which shall
37 permit a vehicle to be operated on the public roads of this state for 12 months from the
38 date the permit is issued even though the vehicle or its load exceeds the maximum limits
39 specified in this article. ~~However, except as specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection,~~
40 an Such annual permit shall not authorize the operation of a vehicle:

- 41 (A) Whose total gross weight exceeds 100,000 pounds;
42 (B) Whose single axle weight exceeds 25,000 pounds;
43 (C) Whose total load length exceeds 100 feet;

44 (D) Whose total width exceeds 102 inches or whose load width exceeds 144 inches;
45 or

46 (E) Whose height exceeds 14 feet and six inches.

47 (2) **Annual permit plus.** Vehicles and loads that meet the requirements for an annual
48 permit may apply for a special annual permit to carry wider loads on the NHS. The wider
49 load limits shall be a maximum of 14 feet wide from the base of the load to a point
50 10 feet above the pavement and 14 feet and eight inches for the upper portion of the load.

51 (3) **Annual commercial wrecker emergency tow permit.** Pursuant to this Code
52 section, the commissioner may issue an annual permit for vehicles towing disabled,
53 damaged, abandoned, or wrecked commercial vehicles, including combination vehicles,
54 even though such wrecker or its load exceeds the maximum limits specified in this article.
55 An annual commercial wrecker emergency tow permit shall not authorize the operation
56 of a vehicle:

57 (A) Whose single axle weight exceeds 25,000 pounds;

58 (B) Whose load on one tandem axle exceeds 50,000 pounds and whose load on any
59 secondary tandem axle exceeds 38,000 pounds; or

60 (C) Whose total load length exceeds 125 feet.

61 (4) **Annual forest product permit.** Pursuant to this Code section, the commissioner
62 may issue an annual permit for vehicles hauling forest products even though such vehicle
63 or its load exceeds the maximum limits specified in this article. An annual forest product
64 permit shall authorize the operation of a vehicle with a:

65 (A) Total gross weight of up to and including 95,000 pounds;

66 (B) Width of no more than 10 feet; and

67 (C) Length of no more than 100 feet.

68 (5) **Six-month permit.** Six-month permits may be issued for loads of tobacco or
69 unginning cotton the widths of which do not exceed nine feet, provided that such loads

70 shall not be operated on The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense
71 Highways.

72 ~~(5)~~(6) **Single trip.** Pursuant to this Code section, the commissioner may issue a
73 single-trip permit to any vehicle or load allowed by federal law.

74 ~~(6)~~(7) **Multitrip.** Pursuant to this Code section, the commissioner may issue a multitrip
75 permit to any vehicle or load allowed by federal law. A multitrip permit authorizes the
76 permitted load to return to its original destination on the same permit, if done so within
77 ten days, with the same vehicle configuration, and following the same route, unless
78 otherwise specified by the department. A multitrip permit authorizes unlimited permitted
79 loads on the same permit, if done so within the allowable ten days, with the same vehicle
80 configuration, and following the same route.

81 (c) **Fees.** The department may promulgate rules and regulations concerning the issuance
82 of permits and charge a fee for the issuance thereof as follows:

83 (1) **Annual.** Charges for the issuance of annual permits shall be \$150.00 per permit.

84 (2) **Annual permit plus.** Charges for the issuance of annual permits plus shall be
85 \$500.00 per permit.

86 (3) **Annual commercial wrecker emergency tow permit.** Charges for the issuance of
87 annual commercial wrecker emergency tow permits shall be \$500.00 per permit.

88 (4) Annual forest product permit. Charges for the issuance of annual forest product
89 permits shall be \$1,000.00 per permit.

90 ~~(5)~~ **Six months.** The charges for the issuance of six-month permits for loads of tobacco
91 or unginmed cotton shall be \$25.00 per permit.

92 ~~(5)~~(6) **Single trip.** Charges for the issuance of single-trip permits shall be as follows:

93 (A) Any load not greater than 16 feet wide, not greater than 16 feet high, and
94 not weighing more than 150,000 pounds or any load greater than 100 feet long
95 which does not exceed the maximum width, height, and weight limits specified
96 by this subparagraph \$ 30.00

97 (B) **Superload permit.** Any load having a width, height, or weight exceeding
 98 the maximum limit therefor specified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph ~~125~~
 99 and not weighing more than 180,000 pounds 125.00
 100 (C) **Superload plus permit.** Any load having a weight exceeding the ~~500~~
 101 maximum limit therefor specified in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph . . . 500.00
 102 ~~(6)~~(7) **Multitrip.** Charges for the issuance of multitrip permits shall be \$100.00 for any
 103 load not greater than 16 feet wide, not greater than 16 feet high, and not weighing more
 104 than 150,000 pounds or any load greater than 100 feet long which does not exceed the
 105 maximum width, height, and weight limits specified by this paragraph."

SECTION 2.

106
107 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.