

Senate Bill 352

By: Senators Anderson of the 24th, Albers of the 56th, Robertson of the 29th, Williams of the 25th, Payne of the 54th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to motor vehicle equipment and inspection,
3 so as to provide for standards for the alteration and operation of motor vehicles with
4 modified suspension systems; to revise definitions; to prohibit the operation of a motor
5 vehicle with broken suspension system springs; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to general provisions relative to motor vehicle equipment and inspection, is amended
11 by revising Code Sections 40-8-6 and 40-8-6.1, relating to alteration of suspension system
12 and operation of vehicle with broken springs and raised chassis vehicles, respectively, as
13 follows:

14 "40-8-6.

15 ~~(a) It shall be unlawful to alter the suspension system of any private passenger motor~~
16 ~~vehicle which may be operated on any public street or highway more than two inches~~
17 ~~above or below the factory recommendation for any such vehicle.~~

18 ~~(b) It shall be unlawful to operate any private passenger motor vehicle upon any highway,~~
19 ~~roadway, or street if the suspension system of such vehicle has been altered more than two~~
20 ~~inches above or below the factory recommendation for such vehicle.~~

21 ~~(c) It shall be unlawful to operate any motor vehicle upon any highway, roadway, or street~~
22 ~~if the springs relative to the suspension system are broken.~~

23 ~~(d) Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.~~

24 ~~40-8-6.1.~~

25 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

26 (1) 'Frame' means the main longitudinal structural members of the chassis of a ~~truck~~
27 motor vehicle.

28 (2) 'Frame height' means the vertical distance between a level surface and the lowest
29 point on the frame of a ~~truck~~ motor vehicle, measured when the ~~truck~~ vehicle is upon
30 such level surface without a load.

31 (3) 'Gross vehicle weight rating' means the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating
32 whether or not the vehicle is modified by use of parts not originally installed by the
33 manufacturer.

34 (b) It shall be unlawful to alter the suspension system of any ~~truck with a gross vehicle~~
35 ~~weight rating of 4,500 pounds or less,~~ motor vehicle, which may be operated on any ~~public~~
36 ~~street or highway, so as to exceed 27 inches as measured from the surface of the street to~~
37 ~~the lowest point on the frame of the truck~~ highway, in a manner that elevates or lowers the
38 frame height of such vehicle by more than six inches above or below the manufacturer's
39 recommendation for such vehicle.

40 (c) It shall be unlawful to alter the suspension system of any ~~truck~~ motor vehicle with a
41 gross vehicle weight rating of not less than ~~4,501~~ 4,000 pounds and not more than 7,500
42 pounds, which may be operated on any ~~public street or highway, so as to exceed 30 inches~~
43 ~~as measured from the surface of the street to the lowest point on the frame of the truck~~
44 highway, in a manner that results in the frame height of the front of such vehicle being
45 more than four inches above or below the frame height of the rear of the vehicle.

46 (d) ~~It shall be unlawful to alter the suspension system of any truck with a gross vehicle~~
47 ~~weight rating of not less than 7,501 pounds and not more than 14,000 pounds, which may~~
48 ~~be operated on any public street or highway, so as to exceed 31 inches as measured from~~
49 ~~the surface of the street to the lowest point on the frame of the truck.~~

50 (e) It shall be unlawful to operate any ~~truck~~ motor vehicle upon any highway, ~~roadway,~~
51 ~~or street~~ if the springs relative to the suspension system are broken or the suspension
52 system has been altered in excess of the limitations provided for in this Code section.

53 (f)(e) Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

54 **SECTION 2.**

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