

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4942**

By Delegates E. Pritt, Linville, Brooks, and Cannon

[Introduced January 19, 2024; Referred to the  
Committee on Technology and Infrastructure]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17C-17-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to prohibiting a vehicle or combination of vehicles coupled together, whose length is in  
 3 excess of 50 feet from travelling on Route 61 between Oak Hill and Montgomery.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 17. SIZE, WEIGHT AND LOAD.**

**§17C-17-4. Height and length of vehicles and loads.**

1 (a) A vehicle, including any load thereon, may not exceed a height of 13 feet six inches, but  
 2 the owner or owners of such vehicles shall be responsible for damage to any bridge or highway  
 3 structure and to municipalities for any damage to traffic control devices or other highway structures  
 4 where such bridges, devices or structures have a vehicle clearance of less than 13 feet six inches.

5 (b) A motor vehicle, including any load thereon, may not exceed a length of 40 feet extreme  
 6 overall dimension, inclusive of front and rear bumpers: *Provided*, That a motor home and a school  
 7 bus may not exceed a length of 45 feet, exclusive of front and rear bumpers.

8 (c) Except as hereinafter provided in this subsection or in subsection (d) of this section, a  
 9 combination of vehicles coupled together may not consist of more than two units and no  
 10 combination of vehicles including any load thereon shall have an overall length, inclusive of front  
 11 and rear bumpers, in excess of 55 feet except as provided in §17C-17-11b of this code and except  
 12 as otherwise provided in respect to the use of a pole trailer as authorized in §17C-17-5 of this  
 13 code. The limitation that a combination of vehicles coupled together may not consist of more than  
 14 two units may not apply to: (1) A combination of vehicles coupled together by a saddle-mount  
 15 device used to transport motor vehicles in a drive-away service when no more than three saddle  
 16 mounts are used, if equipment used in the combination meets the requirements of the safety  
 17 regulations of the United States Department of Transportation and may not exceed an overall  
 18 length of more than 75 feet; or (2) a combination of vehicles coupled together, one of which is a  
 19 travel trailer or folding camping trailer having an overall length, exclusive of front and rear  
 20 bumpers, not exceeding 65 feet.

21 (d) A combination of two vehicles coupled together, one of which is a motor home, or a  
22 combination of vehicles coupled together, one of which is a travel trailer or folding camping trailer,  
23 may not exceed an overall length, exclusive of front and rear bumpers of 65 feet.

24 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this section, the  
25 commissioner may designate, upon his or her own motion or upon the petition of an interested  
26 party, a combination vehicle length not to exceed 70 feet.

27 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other subsection of this section, no vehicle or  
28 combination of vehicles coupled together, whose length is in excess of 50 feet may travel on Route  
29 61 between Oak Hill and Montgomery.

30 (g) The length limitations for truck tractor-semitrailer combinations and truck tractor-  
31 semitrailer-trailer combinations operating on the national system of interstate and defense  
32 highways and those classes of qualifying federal-aid primary system highways so designated by  
33 the United States secretary of transportation and those highways providing reasonable access to  
34 and from terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest and points of loading and unloading for  
35 household goods carriers from such highways and further, as to other highways so designated by  
36 the West Virginia commissioner of highways, shall be as follows: The maximum length of a  
37 semitrailer unit operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination ~~shall~~ may not exceed 48 feet in  
38 length except where semitrailers have an axle spacing of not more than thirty-seven feet between  
39 the rear axle of the truck tractor and the front axle of the semitrailer, such semitrailer shall be  
40 allowed to be not more than 53 feet in length and the maximum length of any semitrailer or trailer  
41 operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination may not exceed 28 feet in length and in  
42 no event ~~shall~~ may any combinations exceed three units, including the truck tractor: *Provided,*  
43 That nothing herein contained shall impose an overall length limitation as to commercial motor  
44 vehicles operating in truck tractor-semitrailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combinations.

45 (g) The commissioner shall publish annually an official map designating the highways of  
46 the state and the various maximum vehicle lengths relating thereto.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit a vehicle or combination of vehicles coupled together, whose length is in excess of 50 feet travelling on Route 61 between Oak Hill and Montgomery.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.