

No. 634, A.]

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CHAPTER 396.

AN ACT to amend 85.47 (1) and 85.48 (1) and to create 85.47 (3) and (4) and 85.48 (3) and (4) of the statutes, relating to highway weight limitations and providing penalties.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 85.47 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

85.47 (1) *Except as provided in subsection (3)*, no vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be operated upon Class "A" highways of this state with gross weights exceeding the following limitations: The gross weight * * * on any axle shall not exceed 19,000 pounds. The gross weight on any 2 or more axles shall not exceed 26,000 pounds plus 1,000 pounds for each foot of distance measured longitudinally to the nearest foot between the foremost and rearmost of the axles under consideration. An axle as used in this section is defined as comprising all wheels the centers of which may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart.

SECTION 2. 85.47 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

85.47 (3) In addition to the weight limitations provided by subsection (1), the following shall apply to Class "A" highways until June 30, 1951: The gross weight of a truck or semitrailer equipped with a dump body having 2 or more axles shall not exceed 26,000 pounds plus 2,000 pounds for each foot of distance measured longitudinally to the nearest foot between the foremost and rearmost of the axles under consideration, nor shall it exceed a total of 25 tons. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all vehicles licensed in this state as of its effective date (1949), but they shall not apply to vehicles first licensed in this state after its effective date.

SECTION 2a. 85.47 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

85.47 (4) In addition to the weight limitations provided by subsection (1), the following shall apply to Class "A" highways until June 30, 1951: The gross weight of a truck or semitrailer, engaged exclusively in the transportation of fluid dairy products, equipped with a milk tank having 2 or more axles shall not exceed 26,000 pounds plus 2,000 pounds for each foot of distance measured longitudinally to the nearest foot between the foremost and rearmost of the axles under consideration, nor shall it exceed a total of 28½ tons. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all such trucks or semitrailers

licensed in this state as of its effective date (1949), but shall not apply to such trucks or semitrailers first licensed in this state after its effective date.

SECTION 3. 85.48 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

85.48 (1) *Except as provided in subsection (3)*, no vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be operated upon Class "B" highways of this state with gross weights exceeding the following limitations: The gross weight on any axle shall not exceed 12,000 pounds. The gross weight on any 2 or more axles shall not exceed 16,000 pounds plus 600 pounds for each foot of distance measured longitudinally to the nearest foot between the foremost and rearmost of the axles under consideration. An axle as used in this section is defined as comprising all wheels the centers of which may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart.

SECTION 4. 85.48 (3) and (4) of the statutes are created to read:

85.48 (3) In addition to the weight limitations provided by subsection (1), the following shall apply to Class "B" highways until June 30, 1951: The gross weight of a truck or semitrailer equipped with a dump body having 2 or more axles shall not exceed 16,000 pounds plus 1,200 pounds for each foot of distance measured longitudinally to the nearest foot between the foremost and rearmost of the axles under consideration, nor shall it exceed a total of 25 tons. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all vehicles licensed in this state as of its effective date (1949), but they shall not apply to vehicles first licensed in this state after its effective date.

(4) In addition to the weight limitations provided by subsection (1) the following shall apply to Class "B" highways until June 30, 1951: The gross weight of a truck or a semitrailer engaged exclusively in the transportation of fluid dairy products; equipped with a milk tank; having 2 or more axles operated on Class "B" highways shall not exceed the weights within Class "A" limitations as provided in section 85.47 (1), and provided further that the total gross weight shall not exceed 22½ tons and the vehicle is operated at a speed not exceeding 45 miles per hour and that the owner of the vehicle secures a permit from the state highway commission, for each such vehicle for such operation, said permit to be attached to the vehicle or to be in the possession of the operator thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all vehicles licensed in this state as of its effective date (1949), but they shall not apply to vehicles first licensed in this state after its effective date.

SECTION 5. In the enactment of this act the legislature hereby declares that the special weight limitations provided in this act are in recognition of the emergency created by the special weight limitations authorized during the war emergency whereunder vehicles designed for such increased weights were purchased and used. It is recognized that the highway system of Wisconsin is not adequate to sustain such increased weight limitations for an extended period of time, and that it is critically necessary that weight limitations be stabilized at or near limits provided by statutes heretofore in force. The legislature further declares that its purpose in setting June 30, 1951 as the expiration date of the emergency weight limits is to permit the various industries concerned, having and using such special vehicles, to convert their present equipment or to acquire new equipment in keeping with the basic standards of weight limitations prescribed by statute.

Approved June 30, 1949.