

HOUSE BILL No. 1204

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 9-20-4-1.

Synopsis: Enforcement of weight limits for overweight loads. Provides that the weight concentrated on the roadway surface from any tandem axle group may not exceed 34,000 pounds on an individual axle of a tri-axle group.

Effective: July 1, 2023.

Karickhoff

January 10, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.



First Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2023)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1204



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 9-20-4-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.198-2016,
2 SECTION 339, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023]: Sec. 1. (a) Except as provided in
4 subsections (b) and (c), a person may not operate or cause to be
5 operated upon a highway a vehicle or combination of vehicles having
6 weight in excess of one (1) or more of the following limitations:
7 (1) The total gross weight, with load, in pounds of any vehicle or
8 combination of vehicles may not exceed an overall gross weight
9 on a group of two (2) or more consecutive axles produced by
10 application of the following formula:
11
$$W = 500 \{ [(LN) \div (N-1)] + 12N + 36 \}$$

12 where W equals the overall gross weight on any group of two (2)
13 or more consecutive axles to the nearest five hundred (500)
14 pounds, L equals the distance in feet between the extreme of any
15 group of two (2) or more consecutive axles, and N equals the
16 number of axles in the group under consideration, except that two
17 (2) consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of



1 thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds each, providing the overall
 2 distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of
 3 tandem axles is thirty-six (36) feet or more. The overall gross
 4 weight limit, calculated under this subdivision, may not exceed
 5 eighty thousand (80,000) pounds.

6 (2) The weight concentrated on the roadway surface from any
 7 tandem axle group may not exceed the following:

8 (A) Thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds total weight.

9 (B) **Except as provided in clause (C)**, twenty thousand
 10 (20,000) pounds on an individual axle in a tandem group.

11 (C) **Thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds on an individual**
 12 **axle of a tri-axle group.**

13 (3) A vehicle may not have a maximum wheel weight, unladen or
 14 with load, in excess of eight hundred (800) pounds per inch width
 15 of tire, measured between the flanges of the rim or an axle weight
 16 in excess of:

17 (A) twenty thousand (20,000) pounds **on an individual axle**
 18 **that is not a tri-axle group; or**

19 (B) **thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds on an individual**
 20 **axle in a tri-axle group.**

21 (b) The enforcement of weight limits under this section is subject to
 22 the following:

23 (1) It is lawful to operate within the scope of a permit, under
 24 weight limitations established by the Indiana department of
 25 transportation and in effect on July 1, 1956, as provided in
 26 IC 9-20-6.

27 (2) It is lawful to operate or cause to be operated a vehicle or
 28 combination of vehicles on a heavy duty highway or an extra
 29 heavy duty highway designated by the Indiana department of
 30 transportation if operated within the imposed limitations.

31 (3) Subsection (a) does not apply to any highway, road, street, or
 32 bridge for which a lesser weight limit is imposed by local
 33 authorities under IC 9-20-1-3 or IC 9-20-7-2. However, the local
 34 authority may by appropriate action establish and designate a
 35 county or city highway, road, or street or part of a highway, road,
 36 or street as a heavy duty highway subject to the weight limitations
 37 established under IC 9-20-5.

38 (4) Vehicles operated on toll road facilities are subject to rules of
 39 weight adopted for toll road facilities by the Indiana department
 40 of transportation under IC 8-15-2 and are not subject to
 41 subsection (a) when operated on a toll road facility.

42 (5) For purposes of a heavy duty vehicle that is equipped with an



- 1 auxiliary power unit, the weight limitations provided in
2 subsection (a) are increased by four hundred (400) pounds.
- 3 (6) For purposes of a vehicle that uses natural gas as a motor fuel,
4 the weight limitations provided in subsection (a) are increased by
5 two thousand (2,000) pounds.
- 6 (c) The greater of the weight limits imposed under subsection (a) or
7 this subsection applies to vehicles operated upon a highway. The
8 weight limits in effect on January 4, 1975, for any highway that is not
9 designated as a heavy duty highway under IC 9-20-5 are the following:
- 10 (1) The total gross weight, with load, in pounds of a vehicle or
11 combination of vehicles may not exceed seventy-three thousand
12 two hundred eighty (73,280) pounds.
- 13 (2) The total weight concentrated on the roadway surface from a
14 tandem axle group may not exceed sixteen thousand (16,000)
15 pounds for each axle of a tandem assembly.
- 16 (3) A vehicle may not have a maximum wheel weight, unladen or
17 with load, in excess of eight hundred (800) pounds per inch width
18 of tire, measured between the flanges of the rim, or an axle weight
19 greater than eighteen thousand (18,000) pounds.
- 20 (d) For purposes of this section, "auxiliary power unit" means an
21 integrated system that:
- 22 (1) provides heat, air conditioning, engine warming, or electricity
23 to components on a heavy duty vehicle; and
- 24 (2) is certified by the administrator of the United States
25 Environmental Protection Agency under 40 CFR 89 as meeting
26 applicable emission standards.
- 27 (e) For purposes of this section, "heavy duty vehicle" means a
28 vehicle that:
- 29 (1) has a gross vehicle weight rating greater than eight thousand
30 five hundred (8,500) pounds; and
- 31 (2) is powered by a diesel engine.

