



1 municipalities for the removal of domestic and commercial refuse and street rubbish,  
2 but such combination of vehicles shall not exceed a total length of 50 feet inclusive of  
3 front and rear bumpers. Provided further, that the said limitation that no combination of  
4 vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than two units shall not apply to a  
5 combination of vehicles coupled together by a saddle mount device used to transport  
6 motor vehicles in a driveway service when no more than three saddle mounts are used  
7 and provided further, that equipment used in said combination is approved by the safety  
8 regulations of the Federal Highway Administration and the safety rules of the  
9 Department of Crime Control and Public Safety."

10 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-115.1(f) reads as rewritten:

11 "(f) Motor vehicle combinations operating pursuant to this section shall have  
12 reasonable access between (i) highways on the interstate system (except those exempted  
13 by the United States Secretary of Transportation pursuant to 49 USC 2311(i) and 49  
14 USC 2316(e)) and other qualifying federal-aid highways as designated by the United  
15 States Secretary of Transportation and (ii) terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and  
16 rest and points of loading and unloading by household goods carriers and by any truck  
17 tractor-semitrailer combination in which the semitrailer has a length not to exceed 28  
18 1/2 feet and a width not to exceed 102 inches as provided in subsection (c) of this  
19 section and which generally operates as part of a vehicle combination described in  
20 subsection (a) of this section. The North Carolina Department of Transportation may, on  
21 streets and highways on the State highway system, and any municipality may, on streets  
22 and highways on the municipal street system, impose reasonable restrictions based on  
23 safety considerations on any truck tractor-semitrailer combination in which the  
24 semitrailer has a length not to exceed 28 1/2 feet and which generally operates as part of  
25 a vehicle combination described in subsection (a) of this section. "Reasonable access" to  
26 facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest shall be deemed to be those facilities which are  
27 located within three road miles of the interstate or designated highway. The Department  
28 of Transportation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations providing for  
29 "reasonable access." The Department may approve reasonable access routes for one  
30 particular type of STAA dimensioned vehicle when significant, substantial differences  
31 in their operating characteristics exist."

32 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-115.1(g) reads as rewritten:

33 "(g) Under certain conditions, and after consultation with the Joint Legislative  
34 Commission on Governmental Operations, the North Carolina Department of  
35 Transportation may designate State highway system roads in addition to those highways  
36 designated by the United States Secretary of Transportation for use by the vehicle  
37 combinations authorized in this section. Such designations by the Department shall only  
38 be made under the following conditions:

- 39 (1) A determination of the public convenience and need for such  
40 designation;
- 41 (2) A traffic engineering study which clearly shows the road proposed to  
42 be designated can safely accommodate and has sufficient capacity to  
43 handle these vehicle combinations; and

1           (3) A public hearing is held or the opportunity for a public hearing is  
2           provided in each county through which the designated highway passes,  
3           after two weeks notice posted at the courthouse and published in a  
4           newspaper of general circulation in each county through which the  
5           designated State highway system road passes, and consideration is  
6           given to the comments received prior to the designation.

7           (4) The Department may designate routes for one particular type of STAA  
8           dimensioned vehicle when significant, substantial differences in their  
9           operating characteristics exist.

10 No portion of the State highway system within municipal corporate limits may be  
11 designated by the Department without concurrence by the municipal governing body.  
12 Also, the Department may not designate any portion of the State highway system that  
13 has been deleted or exempted by the United States Secretary of Transportation based on  
14 safety considerations. For the purpose of this section, any highway designated by the  
15 Department shall be deemed to be the same as a federal-aid primary highway designated  
16 by the United States Secretary of Transportation pursuant to 49 USC 2311 and 49 USC  
17 2316, and the vehicle combinations authorized in this section shall be permitted to  
18 operate on such highway."

19           **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.