

Public Law 98-17  
98th Congress

An Act

To establish uniform national standards for the continued regulation, by the several States, of commercial motor vehicle width on interstate highways.

Apr. 5, 1983

[S. 926]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That (a) part B of title IV of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (49 U.S.C. 2311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Commercial motor vehicle width limitation standards.  
96 Stat. 2159.  
49 USC app. 2311 et seq.

“COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE WIDTH LIMITATION

“SEC. 416. (a) No State, other than the State of Hawaii, shall establish, maintain, or enforce any regulation of commerce which imposes a vehicle width limitation of more or less than 102 inches on any segment of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, or any other qualifying Federal-aid highway as designated by the Secretary of Transportation, with traffic lanes designed to be a width of twelve feet or more; except that a State may continue to enforce any regulation of commerce in effect on April 6, 1983, with respect to motor vehicles that exceed 102 inches in width until the date on which such State adopts a regulation of commerce which complies with the provisions of this subsection.

49 USC app. 2316.

“(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other provision of law, certain safety devices which the Secretary of Transportation determines are necessary for safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles shall not be included in the calculation of width.

“(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other provision of law, a State may grant special use permits to motor vehicles that exceed 102 inches in width.

“(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and in accordance with the provisions of this section, a State shall have authority to enforce a commercial vehicle width limitation of 102 inches on any segment of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, or any other qualifying Federal-aid highway as designated by the Secretary of Transportation, with traffic lanes designed to be a width of twelve feet or more.

“(e) The provisions of this section shall take effect on April 6, 1983.”

Effective date.

*Ante*, p. 59. (b) The heading of Part B of title IV of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 is amended by inserting "AND WIDTH" immediately after "LENGTH".

Repeal. SEC. 2. Section 321 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1983 (Public Law 97-369; 96 Stat. 1784) is repealed.

23 USC 127 note.

Approved April 5, 1983.

Sec. 116 (b) No State, other than the State of Hawaii, shall establish, maintain, or enforce any regulation of commerce which imposes a vehicle width limitation of more or less than 102 inches on any segment of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways or any other qualifying Federal-aid highway as designated by the Secretary of Transportation, with traffic lanes designed to be a width of twelve feet or more, except that a State may continue to enforce any regulation of commerce in effect on April 5, 1983, with respect to motor vehicles that exceed 102 inches in width until the date on which such State adopts a regulation of commerce which complies with the provisions of this subsection.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other provision of law, certain safety devices which the Secretary of Transportation determines are necessary for safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles shall not be included in the calculation of width.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other provision of law, a State may grant special use permits to motor vehicles that exceed 102 inches in width.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and in accordance with the provisions of this section, a State shall have authority to enforce a commercial vehicle width limitation of 102 inches on any segment of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways or any other qualifying Federal-aid highway as designated by the Secretary of Transportation, with traffic lanes designed to be a width of twelve feet or more.

(g) The provisions of this section shall take effect on April 5, 1983.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 926:**

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 129 (1983):

Mar. 24, considered and passed Senate and House.