

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE BILL 686

Short Title: Recreation Vehicles-Width/Length Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Gibson, Bowie (Primary Sponsors); and Walker.

Referred to: Transportation.

March 19, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DEFINE "RECREATION VEHICLE" AND TO INCREASE THE
LENGTH AND WIDTH LIMITATIONS FOR THESE VEHICLES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-4.01 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(32a) Recreation Vehicle. — A vehicular type unit primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use that either has its own motive power or is mounted on, or towed by, another vehicle. The basic entities are camping trailer, fifth-wheel travel trailer, motor home, travel trailer, and truck camper.

a. Motor home. — As defined in G.S. 20-4.01(27)d2.

b. Travel trailer. — A vehicular unit mounted on wheels, designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use, and of a size or weight that does not require a special highway movement permit when towed by a motorized vehicle.

c. Fifth-wheel trailer. — A vehicular unit mounted on wheels designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use, of a size and weight that does not require a special highway movement permit and designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that contains a towing mechanism that is mounted above or forward of the tow vehicle's rear axle.

d. Camping trailer. — A vehicular portable unit mounted on wheels and constructed with collapsible partial side walls that fold for towing by another vehicle and unfold at the campsite to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use.

1 e. Truck camper. — A portable unit that is constructed to provide
2 temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel
3 use, consisting of a roof, floor, and sides and is designed to be
4 loaded onto and unloaded from the bed of a pickup truck."

5 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-4.01(32a) is recodified as G.S. 20-4.01(32b).

6 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-116(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) The total outside width of any vehicle or the load thereon shall not exceed
8 102 inches, except as otherwise provided in this section. When hogsheads of tobacco
9 are being transported, a tolerance of six inches is allowed. When sheet or bale tobacco is
10 being transported the load must not exceed a width of 114 inches at the top of the load
11 and the bottom of the load at the truck bed must not exceed the width of 102 inches
12 inclusive of allowance for load shifting or settling. Vehicles (other than passenger
13 buses) that do not exceed the overall width of 102 inches and otherwise provided in this
14 section may be operated in accordance with G.S. 20-115.1(c), (f), and (g). The 102-inch
15 width limitation does not include appurtenances and retracted awnings less than six
16 inches in width."

17 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-116(d) reads as rewritten:

18 "(d) A single vehicle having two axles shall not exceed 40 feet in length of
19 extreme overall dimensions inclusive of front and rear bumpers. A single vehicle having
20 three axles shall not exceed 40 feet in length overall of dimensions inclusive of front
21 and rear bumpers. Provided, however, trucks transporting unprocessed cotton from farm
22 to gin shall not exceed 48 feet in length overall of dimensions inclusive of front and rear
23 bumpers. A truck-tractor and semitrailer shall be regarded as two vehicles for the
24 purpose of determining lawful length and license taxes. Recreation vehicles shall not
25 exceed 45 feet in length overall, excluding bumpers and mirrors."

26 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.