



CHAPTER 20
ARTICLE 3 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACT OF 1937

N.C.G.S. § 20-88.

Property-hauling vehicles.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2021-180, s. 41.48(b) — fifty-second act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:47 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 6b24610ca185650cbe1c2a47 - 8306dbc3fedc917fe76add56 - 9738a9bc95d653c4
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§ 20-88(a) Determination of Weight. - For the purpose of licensing, the weight of self-propelled property-carrying vehicles shall be the empty weight and heaviest load to be transported, as declared by the owner or operator; provided, that any determination of weight shall be made only in units of 1,000 pounds or major fraction thereof, weights of over 500 pounds counted as 1,000 and weights of 500 pounds or less disregarded. The declared gross weight of self-propelled property-carrying vehicles operated in conjunction with trailers or semitrailers shall include the empty weight of the vehicles to be operated in the combination and the heaviest load to be transported by such combination at any time during the registration period, except that the gross weight of a trailer or semitrailer is not required to be included when the operation is to be in conjunction with a self-propelled property-carrying vehicle which is licensed for 6,000 pounds or less gross weight and the gross weight of such combination does not exceed 9,000 pounds, except wreckers as defined under G.S. 20-4.01(50). Those property-hauling vehicles registered for 4,000 pounds shall be permitted a tolerance of 500 pounds above the weight permitted under the table of weights and rates appearing in subsection (b) of this section.

§ 20-88(b) The following fees are imposed on the annual registration of self-propelled property-hauling vehicles; the fees are based on the type of vehicle and its weight:

SCHEDULE OF WEIGHTS AND RATES

Rates Per Hundred Pound Gross Weight

Farmer Rate

Not over 4,000 pounds\$0.38

4,001 to 9,000 pounds inclusive.52

9,001 to 13,000 pounds inclusive.65

13,001 to 17,000 pounds inclusive1.13

Over 17,000 pounds1.25

Rates Per Hundred Pound Gross Weight

General Rate

Not over 4,000 pounds\$1.02

4,001 to 9,000 pounds inclusive1.30

9,001 to 13,000 pounds inclusive1.55

13,001 to 17,000 pounds inclusive2.52

Over 17,000 pounds2.75

- (1) The minimum fee for a vehicle licensed under this subsection is thirty-eight dollars and fifty cents (\$38.50) at the farmer rate and forty-six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$46.25) at the general rate.
- (2) The term "farmer" as used in this subsection means any person engaged in the raising and growing of farm products on a farm in North Carolina not less than 10 acres in area, and who does not engage in the business of buying products for resale.
- (3) License plates issued at the farmer rate shall be placed upon trucks and truck-tractors that are operated for the primary purpose of carrying or transporting the applicant's farm products, raised or produced on the applicant's farm, and farm supplies. The license plates shall not be used on a vehicle operated in hauling for hire.
- (4) "Farm products" means any food crop, livestock, poultry, dairy products, flower bulbs, or other nursery products and other agricultural products designed to be used for food purposes, including in the term "farm products" also cotton, tobacco, logs, bark, pulpwood, tannic acid wood and other forest products grown, produced, or processed by the farmer.

- (5) The Division shall issue necessary rules and regulations providing for the recall, transfer, exchange or cancellation of "farmer" plates, when vehicle bearing such plates shall be sold or transferred.
- (5a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, license plates issued pursuant to this subsection at the farmer rate may be purchased for any three-month period at one fourth of the annual fee.
- (6) There shall be paid to the Division annually the following fees for "wreckers" as defined under G.S. 20-4.01(50): a wrecker fully equipped weighing 7,000 pounds or less, one hundred twenty-six dollars (\$126.00); wreckers weighing in excess of 7,000 pounds shall pay two hundred forty-six dollars (\$246.75). Fees to be prorated monthly. Provided, further, that nothing herein shall prohibit a licensed dealer from using a dealer's license plate to tow a vehicle for a customer.
- (7) The registration fee for historic vehicles licensed under G.S. 20-79.4 that weigh more than 6,000 pounds shall be calculated at the general rate. A motor vehicle displaying a historic vehicle registration plate may operate in conjunction with a trailer or semitrailer but shall not be operated in furtherance of any commercial enterprise. The driver of a vehicle who violates this subdivision is subject to the penalties set forth in G.S. 20-382.2.

§ 20-88(c)

The fee for a semitrailer or trailer is thirty-two dollars and twenty-five cents (\$32.25) for each year or part of a year. The fee is payable each year. Upon the application of the owner of a semitrailer or trailer, the Division may issue a multiyear plate and registration card for the semitrailer or trailer for a fee of one hundred twenty-six dollars (\$126.00). A multiyear plate and registration card for a semitrailer or trailer are valid until the owner transfers the semitrailer or trailer to another person or surrenders the plate and registration card to the Division. A multiyear plate may not be transferred to another vehicle.

The Division shall issue a multiyear semitrailer or trailer plate in a different color than an annual semitrailer or trailer plate and shall include the word "multiyear" on the plate. The Division may not issue a multiyear plate for a house trailer.

§ 20-88(d)

Rates on trucks, trailers and semitrailers wholly or partially equipped with solid tires shall be double the above schedule.

§ 20-88(e)

Repealed by Session Laws 1981, c. 976, s. 6.

- § 20-88(f)** Repealed by Session Laws 1995, c. 163, s. 6.
- § 20-88(g)** Repealed by Session Laws 1969, c. 600, s. 17.
- § 20-88(h)** Repealed by Session Laws 1979, c. 419.
- § 20-88(i)** Any vehicle fee determined under this section according to the weight of the vehicle shall be increased by the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) to arrive at the total fee.
- § 20-88(j)** No heavy vehicle subject to the use tax imposed by Section 4481 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 4481) may be registered or licensed pursuant to G.S. 20-88 without proof of payment of the use tax imposed by that law. The proof of payment shall be on a form prescribed by the United States Secretary of Treasury pursuant to the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 141(d).
- § 20-88(k)** A person may not drive a vehicle on a highway if the vehicle's gross weight exceeds its declared gross weight. A vehicle driven in violation of this subsection is subject to the axle-group weight penalties set in G.S. 20-118(e). The penalties apply to the amount by which the vehicle's gross weight exceeds its declared weight.
- § 20-88(l)** The Division shall issue permanent truck and truck-tractor plates to Class A and Class B Motor Vehicles and shall include the word "permanent" on the plate. The permanent registration plates issued pursuant to this section shall be subject to annual registration fees set in this section. The Division shall issue the necessary rules providing for the recall, transfer, exchange, or cancellation of permanent plates issued pursuant to this section.
- § 20-88(m)** Any vehicle weighing greater than the gross weight limits found in G.S. 20-118(b)(3), as authorized by G.S. 20-118(c)(12), (c)(14), and (c)(15), must be registered for the maximum weight allowed for the vehicle configuration as listed in G.S. 20-118(b). A vehicle driven in violation of this subsection is subject to the axle group penalties set out in G.S. 20-118(e). The penalties apply to the amount by which the vehicle's maximum gross weight as listed in G.S. 20-118(b) exceeds its declared weight.

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1937	c. 407, s. 52	ENACTED
02	1939	c. 275	AMENDED
03	1941	cc. 36, 227	AMENDED
04	1943	c. 648	AMENDED
05	1945	c. 569, s. 1	AMENDED
06	1945	c. 575, s. 1	AMENDED
07	1945	c. 576, s. 3	AMENDED
08	1945	c. 956, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
09	1949	cc. 355, 361	AMENDED
10	1951	c. 583	AMENDED
11	1951	c. 819, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
12	1953	c. 568	AMENDED
13	1953	c. 694, s. 1	AMENDED
14	1953	c. 1122	AMENDED
15	1955	c. 554, s. 8	AMENDED
16	1957	c. 681, s. 2	AMENDED
17	1957	c. 1215	AMENDED
18	1959	c. 571	AMENDED
19	1961	c. 685	AMENDED
20	1963	c. 501	AMENDED
21	1963	c. 702, ss. 2, 3	AMENDED
22	1967	c. 1095, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
23	1969	c. 600, ss. 12-17	AMENDED
24	1969	c. 1056, s. 1	AMENDED

25	1973	c. 154, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
26	1973	c. 291	AMENDED
27	1975	c. 716, s. 5	AMENDED
28	1977	c. 638	AMENDED
29	1979	c. 419	AMENDED
30	1979	c. 631	AMENDED
31	1981	c. 67	AMENDED
32	1981	c. 690, ss. 29, 30	AMENDED
33	1981	c. 976, s. 6	AMENDED
34	1983	c. 43	AMENDED
35	1983	c. 190, s. 1	AMENDED
36	1983	c. 761, s. 144	AMENDED
37	1983	c. 768, s. 4	AMENDED
38	1983	1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 947, s. 1	AMENDED
39	1993	c. 467, s. 4	AMENDED
40	1993	c. 543, s. 1	AMENDED
41	1995	c. 109, s. 1	AMENDED
42	1995	c. 163, s. 6	AMENDED
43	1995	1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 756, s. 8	AMENDED
44	1997	S.L. 1997-466, s. 1	AMENDED
45	2004	S.L. 2004-167, ss. 6, 7	AMENDED
46	2004	S.L. 2004-199, s. 59	AMENDED
47	2005	S.L. 2005-276, s. 44.1(n)	AMENDED
48	2008	S.L. 2008-221, s. 2	AMENDED
49	2012	S.L. 2012-78, s. 4	AMENDED
50	2013	S.L. 2013-92, s. 1	AMENDED
51	2015	S.L. 2015-241, s. 29.30(o)	AMENDED
52	2021	S.L. 2021-180, s. 41.48(b)	AMENDED

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 20-4.01(50)	(a)	<i>"pounds, except wreckers as defined under"</i>
G.S. 20-79.4	(b)(7)	<i>"fee for historic vehicles licensed under"</i>
G.S. 20-382.2	(b)(7)	<i>"to the penalties set forth in"</i>
G.S. 20-88	(i)	<i>"be registered or licensed pursuant to"</i>
G.S. 20-118(e)	(k)	<i>"the axle-group weight penalties set in"</i>
G.S. 20-118(b)(3)	(m)	<i>"the gross weight limits found in"</i>
G.S. 20-118(c)(12), (c)(14), and (c)(15)	(m)	<i>"in G.S. 20-118(b)(3), as authorized by"</i>
G.S. 20-118(b)	(m)	<i>"the vehicle configuration as listed in"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-88 (2021).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-88(a) (2021).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1937, c. 407, s. 52; 1939, c. 275; 1941, cc. 36, 227; 1943, c. 648; 1945, c. 569, s. 1; c. 575, s. 1; c. 576, s. 3; c. 956, ss. 1, 2; 1949, cc. 355, 361; 1951, c. 583; c. 819, ss. 1, 2; 1953, c. 568; c. 694, s. 1; c. 1122; 1955, c. 554, s. 8; 1957, c. 681, s. 2; c. 1215; 1959, c. 571; 1961, c. 685; 1963, c. 501; c. 702, ss. 2, 3; 1967, c. 1095, ss. 1, 2; 1969, c. 600, ss. 12-17; c. 1056, s. 1; 1973, c. 154, ss. 1, 2; c. 291; 1975, c. 716, s. 5; 1977, c. 638; 1979, c. 419; c. 631; 1981, c. 67; c. 690, ss. 29, 30; c. 976, s. 6; 1983, c. 43; c. 190, s. 1; c. 761, s. 144; c. 768, s. 4; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 947, s. 1; 1993, c. 467, s. 4; c. 543, s. 1; 1995, c. 109, s. 1; c. 163, s. 6; 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 756, s. 8; 1997-466, s. 1; 2004-167, ss. 6, 7; 2004-199, s. 59; 2005-276, s. 44.1(n); 2008-221, s. 2; 2012-78, s. 4; 2013-92, s. 1; 2015-241, s. 29.30(o); 2021-180, s. 41.48(b).)

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