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AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; MAKING A DEFINITION FOR "NATURAL GAS VEHICLES"; INCREASING THE WEIGHT LIMIT FOR NATURAL GAS VEHICLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 66-1-4.12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.12. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

A. "natural gas vehicle" means a vehicle operated by an engine that primarily uses natural gas;

B. "neighborhood electric car" means a four-wheeled electric motor vehicle that has a maximum speed of more than twenty miles per hour but less than twenty-five miles per hour and complies with the federal requirements specified in 49 CFR 571.500;

C. "nonrepairable vehicle" means a vehicle of a type otherwise subject to registration that:

(1) has no resale value except as a source of parts or scrap metal or that the owner irreversibly designates as a source of parts or scrap metal or for destruction;

(2) has been substantially stripped as a

1 result of theft or is missing all of the bolts on sheet metal
2 body panels, all of the doors and hatches, substantially all
3 of the interior components and substantially all of the grill
4 and light assemblies and has little or no resale value other
5 than its worth as a source of a vehicle identification number
6 that could be used illegally; or

7 (3) is a substantially burned vehicle that
8 has burned to the extent that there are no more usable or
9 repairable body or interior components, tires and wheels or
10 drive train components or that the owner irreversibly
11 designates for destruction or as having little or no resale
12 value other than its worth as a source of scrap metal or as a
13 source of a vehicle identification number that could be used
14 illegally;

15 D. "nonrepairable vehicle certificate" means a
16 vehicle ownership document conspicuously labeled
17 "NONREPAIRABLE" issued to the owner of the nonrepairable
18 vehicle;

19 E. "nonresident" means every person who is not a
20 resident of this state;

21 F. "nonresident commercial driver's license" means
22 a commercial driver's license issued by another state to a
23 person domiciled in that state or by a foreign country to a
24 person domiciled in that country; and

25 G. "nonresident's operating privilege" means the

1 privilege conferred upon a nonresident by the laws of this
2 state pertaining to the operation by the nonresident of a
3 motor vehicle, or the use of a motor vehicle owned by the
4 nonresident, in this state."

5 SECTION 2. Section 66-7-409 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,
6 Chapter 35, Section 480, as amended) is amended to read:

7 "66-7-409. LOAD LIMITS ON SINGLE AXLES, WHEELS AND
8 TIRES.--

9 A. Except as provided by Subsection D of this
10 section, the gross weight imposed on the highway by the
11 wheels of any one axle of a vehicle shall not exceed twenty-
12 one thousand six hundred pounds nor shall any one wheel carry
13 a load in excess of eleven thousand pounds.

14 B. For the purposes of Sections 66-7-401 through
15 66-7-416 NMSA 1978, a single-axle load is defined as the
16 total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose
17 centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical
18 planes forty inches or less apart extending across the full
19 width of the vehicle. A tandem axle load is defined as the
20 total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose
21 centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical
22 planes more than forty inches apart but less than one hundred
23 twenty inches apart, extending across the full width of the
24 vehicle. The allowed load on tandem axles shall not exceed
25 the gross weight given in Section 66-7-410 NMSA 1978 for the

1 respective distance between the axles.

2 C. No wheel equipped with pneumatic, solid rubber
3 or cushion tires shall carry a load in excess of six hundred
4 pounds for each inch of tire width. The width of pneumatic
5 tires shall be taken at the manufacturer's rating. The width
6 of solid rubber and cushion tires shall be measured at the
7 flange of the rim.

8 D. The division shall by rule establish standard
9 weight limits for the wheels of any one vehicle axle and any
10 one wheel that allow for the gross weight limitation
11 increases authorized for natural gas vehicles."

12 SECTION 3. Section 66-7-410 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,
13 Chapter 35, Section 481, as amended) is amended to read:

14 "66-7-410. GROSS WEIGHT OF VEHICLES AND LOADS.--

15 A. Subject to the limit upon the weight imposed
16 upon the highway through any one axle as set forth in Section
17 66-7-409 NMSA 1978 and except as provided in Subsection D of
18 this section, the total gross weight with load imposed upon
19 the highway by any one group of two or more consecutive axles
20 of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed the
21 gross weight given for the respective distance between the
22 first and last axle of the group of axles measured
23 longitudinally to the nearest foot as set forth in the
24 following table:

25 Distance in feet between first Allowed load in pounds

1	and last axles of group	on group of axles
2	4	34,320
3	5	35,100
4	6	35,880
5	7	36,660
6	8	37,440
7	9	38,220
8	10	39,000
9	11	39,780
10	12	40,560
11	13	41,340
12	14	42,120
13	15	42,900
14	16	43,680
15	17	44,460
16	18	45,240.

17 B. Except as provided in Subsection D of this
18 section, the total gross weight with load imposed on the
19 highway by any vehicle or combination of vehicles where the
20 distance between the first and last axles is more than
21 eighteen feet shall not exceed that given for the respective
22 distances in the following table:

23	Distance in feet between first	Allowed load in pounds
24	and last axles of group	on group of axles
25	19	53,100

1	20	54,000
2	21	54,900
3	22	55,800
4	23	56,700
5	24	57,600
6	25	58,500
7	26	59,400
8	27	60,300
9	28	61,200
10	29	62,100
11	30	63,000
12	31	63,900
13	32	64,800
14	33	65,700
15	34	66,600
16	35	67,500
17	36	68,400
18	37	69,300
19	38	70,200
20	39	71,100
21	40	72,000
22	41	72,900
23	42	73,800
24	43	74,700
25	44	75,600

1	45	76,500
2	46	77,400
3	47	78,300
4	48	79,200
5	49	80,100
6	50	81,000
7	51	81,900
8	52	82,800
9	53	83,700
10	54	84,600
11	55	85,500
12	56 or over	86,400.

13 C. The distance between the centers of the axles
14 shall be measured to the nearest even foot. When a fraction
15 is exactly one-half, the next larger whole number shall be
16 used.

17 D. The total gross weight with load limitations
18 imposed by this section for any vehicle or combination of
19 vehicles shall be increased by:

20 (1) four hundred pounds if the vehicle or
21 combination of vehicles uses idle reduction technology; or

22 (2) if the vehicle is a natural gas vehicle,
23 a standard gross weight limit increase for each axle distance
24 category in this section, established by the division by rule,
25 by an amount equal to the difference between the average

1 weight of the vehicle attributable to its natural gas tank and
2 fuel system and the average weight of a comparable diesel tank
3 and fuel system." _____

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