



Public Service Commission Chairman Lane's Column



April 13, 2020

PSC Keeps Roads Safe for Pandemic Assistance

By Charlotte R. Lane, Chairman, Public Service Commission of West Virginia

One of the responsibilities of the PSC is to enforce weight limits and safety requirements on trucks. We take this responsibility very seriously. Overweight and unsafe trucks put all of us in potential danger. You have probably seen our enforcement officers out on the highways.

In order to assist in the pandemic response, on March 25, 2020, Secretary of Transportation/Commissioner of Highways Byrd White issued a Temporary Waiver and Special Permit to allow commercial motor vehicles to exceed the normal weight limits when hauling vital COVID-19 relief supplies. This temporary waiver will remain in effect until 5:00 p.m. June 25, 2020, and only applies to statewide shippers and carriers associated with emergency relief efforts. It does not give permission for industrial haulers, such as coal or timber companies to run overweight vehicles. Nor does it give overweight trucks permission to cross any bridge if the vehicle's gross weight exceeds the posted weight limit of the bridge.

This is good news for West Virginians. It will help ensure that badly needed medical supplies reach our hospitals and first responders. It means that the shelves of your local grocery store can be restocked on a regular basis, which eliminates the fear that fuels the panic buying we saw in the early days of the pandemic. It reassures us that our families will not have to suffer through rationing or other extreme measures that might otherwise be necessary.

In cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, our Officers will continue their vigilant efforts to patrol the interstates and highways for vehicles that are in violation of state regulations, whether they are overweight, speeding, or being driven in an unsafe manner. Inspections will continue and citations will be issued where warranted.

West Virginians are united in concern for our fellow citizens who are directly affected by this pandemic. While you are doing your best to stay safe at home, our Officers are working every day to ensure that when you need to travel, the roads are as safe as possible. With heavier trucks on the road, we are more vigilant than ever. Our primary goal is to make sure that, wherever you must go, you will arrive safely.

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