
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, as part of the
2 increased development of Hawaii's towns and cities, there has
3 been an increase in noise pollution. One of the contributors to
4 noise pollution is the loud beeping sound emitted by large
5 vehicles when they are reversing. This is due to a state law
6 that requires certain large vehicles to be equipped with an
7 audible reverse warning system. This safety measure is meant to
8 warn pedestrians and others behind a large vehicle that the
9 vehicle is about to reverse. However, when these vehicles
10 operate in areas of high population density or near hospitals or
11 hotels, the loud noise can be very irritating and inevitably
12 raises complaints. Although the department of health has rules
13 to control vehicular noise, these rules exempt audible reverse
14 warning systems, and the department has no authority to compel
15 compliance.

16 The purpose of this Act is to provide an option to turn off
17 the audible reverse warning system for noise control purposes if



1 the vehicle is equipped with a rearview camera system in the
 2 rear that continues to operate whenever the vehicle is
 3 reversing, or if a watchperson is continuously on duty to ensure
 4 safety.

5 SECTION 2. Section 291-35.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§291-35.1 Regulation of bumper height[-]; reverse warning**
 8 **systems.** (a) Maximum bumper heights of motor vehicles shall be
 9 determined by the weight category of gross vehicle weight rating
 10 (GVWR) as measured from a level surface to the highest point on
 11 the bottom of the bumper. Maximum heights are as follows:

12	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating	Front	Rear
13	Passenger vehicles	22 inches	22 inches
14	4,500 lbs. and under	29 inches	29 inches
15	4,501 lbs. to 7,500 lbs.	33 inches	33 inches
16	7,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs.	35 inches	35 inches

17 (b) For any vehicle with bumpers or attaching components
 18 which have been modified or altered from the original
 19 manufacturer's design to conform with the maximum bumper height
 20 requirements of this section, the bumper height shall be
 21 measured from a level surface to the bottom of the bumper. The
 22 vehicle frame rail, measured from a level surface to the bottom



1 of the vehicle frame rail, shall not exceed the attached bumper
2 height. The maximum distance between vehicle body to vehicle
3 frame rail shall not exceed three inches. The distance between
4 the vehicle body to vehicle frame rail shall be measured from
5 the vehicle body mount seat to the vehicle frame rail mount
6 seat. "Bumper", for purposes of this section means a horizontal
7 load bearing protective system installed on a motor vehicle
8 which is constructed of sturdy materials that will not shatter
9 or split upon moderate impact and provides adequate protection
10 against damages to the front and rear external lighting and
11 reflective devices, hood, trunk, doors, painted surfaces,
12 cooling system, exhaust system, and other components during a
13 low speed impact. Any vehicle that exceeds the Vehicle
14 Equipment Safety Commission - Regulation 12 recommended bumper
15 height, based on the gross vehicle weight rating, shall be
16 equipped with an audible reverse warning system[~~-~~]; provided
17 that the audible reverse warning system may be manually turned
18 off for noise control purposes if: the vehicle is equipped with
19 a rearview camera system that operates whenever the vehicle is
20 reversing; or, a watchperson is continuously on duty to ensure
21 safety. Any switch permitting the audible reverse warning
22 system to be manually disengaged shall be programmable to



1 automatically turn off and re-engage the audible reverse warning
2 system. The audible reverse warning system is not required on
3 any open cab vehicle with a distance of less than four feet from
4 the rear of the driver's seating position to the rear most part
5 of the vehicle body."

6 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Motor Vehicles; Reverse Warning Systems

Description:

Permits motor vehicle backup warning beepers to be disabled if the vehicle is equipped with a rear view camera system, or a watchperson is on duty. (HB1446 HD1)

