



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Committee Bill No. 331

LCO No. 4680

04680SB00331TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING REDUCING NOISE FROM ENGINE
COMPRESSION BRAKES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-80h of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

3 (a) Each motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped,
4 when operated on a highway, with at least two braking systems one of
5 which shall be a service brake system and the other a parking brake
6 system. Each braking system shall have a separate means of
7 application by the operator. Each braking system, including any power
8 assist devices used to reduce operator braking effort, shall be
9 maintained in good working order at all times.

10 (b) The service brake system, upon actuation by the operator, shall
11 be effective in directly applying braking action on all wheels except as
12 provided in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Section 393.42, as
13 amended. The service brake system employed on vehicles
14 manufactured after January 1, 1968, shall be so designed and
15 constructed that the wheel brakes on at least one axle operate

16 separately from the wheel brakes on at least one other axle in a manner
17 that will provide braking effort on at least two wheels in the event of a
18 failure in any singular part or component of the service brake system,
19 excluding the common actuation pedal or lever and excluding a
20 structural failure of the brake distribution mechanism housing,
21 effectiveness indicator body or other housing common to the divided
22 brake actuation system. The service brakes, upon application by the
23 operator, shall be capable of bringing the motor vehicle to a controlled
24 stop within such distance and under such conditions as prescribed by
25 the commissioner.

26 (c) The parking brake system, upon actuation by the operator, shall
27 be effective in applying braking action either directly or indirectly on
28 at least two wheels. The parking brake system shall be capable of
29 holding the motor vehicle or combination of vehicles attached thereto
30 stationary under any condition of loading on any upgrade or
31 downgrade on which it is operated.

32 (d) If the service brake system or the parking brake system are
33 functionally connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that
34 failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the
35 motor vehicle without braking ability on at least two wheels.

36 (e) The commissioner shall not register a motor vehicle unless it is
37 equipped with brakes which are adequate, in his opinion, to safely
38 control the movement of the motor vehicle. The commissioner may
39 make, or cause to be made, regulations or tests in relation to any motor
40 vehicle brakes.

41 (f) On and after January 1, 1989, no person may operate any vehicle
42 with a gross vehicle weight of ten thousand pounds or more with a
43 braking system which fails to conform with the safety standards
44 established under the provisions of this subsection. Not later than
45 January 1, 1989, the commissioner shall adopt regulations in
46 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing safety
47 standards for braking systems utilized on vehicles with a gross vehicle

48 weight of ten thousand pounds or more. Such regulations shall include
49 (1) the identification of any mechanical defect in the braking system
50 which may result in such vehicle being declared out of service in
51 accordance with the provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations
52 Title 49, Sections 393.40 to 393.52, inclusive, and 396.3, as amended,
53 and (2) the establishment of a classification of defects or combination
54 of defects which in combination are deemed to be severe. Any person
55 who operates any such vehicle with any severe defect or combination
56 of defects which in combination are deemed to be severe shall be fined
57 not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more than five hundred
58 dollars.

59 (g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any pole trailer.

60 (h) Any person who violates any provision of subsections (a) to (e),
61 inclusive, of this section shall be deemed to have committed an
62 infraction for each offense.

63 (i) Each truck, tractor or truck tractor that is equipped with an
64 engine compression brake device shall be equipped with a muffler, in
65 good working condition, for such device. In addition to any penalty for
66 violating the decibel level provisions of section 14-80a, any person who
67 operates such a truck, tractor or truck tractor in violation of this
68 subsection shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. The
69 Department of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance
70 with provisions of chapter 54, to implement this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	14-80h

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce noise pollution, promote public safety and enhance neighborhoods by reducing noise from truck engine compression brakes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. MCDONALD, 27th Dist.

S.B. 331