

SENATE BILL No. 356

By Committee on Transportation

2-3

1 AN ACT concerning drivers' licenses; relating to weight limits for certain
2 classes of licenses; clarifying the weight restrictions for drivers'
3 licenses; amending K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 8-234b and repealing the
4 existing section.

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6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 8-234b is hereby amended to read as
8 follows: 8-234b. (a) Every original driver's license issued by the division
9 shall indicate the class or classes of motor vehicles ~~which~~ *that* the licensee
10 is entitled to drive. For this purpose the following classes are established:

11 (1) Commercial class A motor vehicles include any combination of
12 vehicles with a gross combination weight rating *or gross combination*
13 *weight* of 26,001 pounds or more, providing the gross vehicle weight
14 rating *or gross vehicle weight* of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in
15 excess of 10,000 pounds;

16 (2) commercial class B motor vehicles include any single vehicle
17 with a gross vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight* of 26,001
18 pounds or more, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of
19 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight*;

20 (3) commercial class C motor vehicles include any single vehicle less
21 than 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight*, or
22 any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds, or any
23 vehicle less than 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight rating *or gross*
24 *vehicle weight* towing a vehicle in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle
25 weight rating *or gross vehicle weight*, provided the gross combination
26 weight rating *or gross combination weight* of the combination is less than
27 26,001 pounds comprising:

28 (A) Vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including
29 the driver; or

30 (B) vehicles used in the transportation of hazardous materials ~~which~~
31 *that* requires the vehicle to be placarded;

32 (4) class A motor vehicles include any combination of vehicles with a
33 gross combination weight rating *or gross combination weight* of 26,001
34 pounds or more, provided the gross combination weight rating *or gross*
35 *combination weight* of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of
36 10,000 pounds, and all other lawful combinations of vehicles with a gross

1 combination weight rating *or gross combination weight* of 26,001 pounds;
2 ~~or more, except that~~. Class A ~~does~~ *motor vehicles do* not include a
3 combination of vehicles that has a truck registered as a farm truck under
4 K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto;

5 (5) class B motor vehicles include any single vehicle with a gross
6 vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight* of 26,001 pounds or more, or
7 any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds gross
8 vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight*. Class B motor vehicles do
9 not include a single vehicle registered as a farm truck under K.S.A. 8-143,
10 and amendments thereto, when such farm truck has a gross vehicle weight
11 rating *or gross vehicle weight* of 26,001 pounds; or more~~;~~, or any fire truck
12 operated by a volunteer fire department;

13 (6) class C motor vehicles include any single vehicle with a gross
14 vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight* less than 26,001 pounds, or
15 any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds gross
16 vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight*, or any vehicle with ~~a~~ less
17 than 26,001 gross vehicle weight rating *or gross vehicle weight* towing a
18 vehicle in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating *or gross*
19 *vehicle weight*, provided the gross combination weight rating *or gross*
20 *vehicle weight* of the combination is less than 26,001 pounds, or any single
21 vehicle registered as a farm truck under K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments
22 thereto, when such farm truck has a gross vehicle weight rating *or gross*
23 *vehicle weight* of 26,001 pounds, or more, or any fire truck operated by a
24 volunteer fire department or any autocycle; and

25 (7) class M motor vehicles includes motorcycles, but does not include
26 autocycles.

27 As used in this subsection, "gross vehicle weight rating" means the
28 value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a
29 single or a combination (articulated) vehicle. The gross vehicle weight
30 rating of a combination (articulated) vehicle, commonly referred to as the
31 gross combination weight rating, is the gross vehicle weight rating of the
32 power unit plus the gross vehicle weight rating of the towed unit or units.

33 (b) Every applicant for an original driver's license shall indicate on
34 such person's application the class or classes of motor vehicles ~~for which~~
35 *that* the applicant desires a license to drive, and the division shall not issue
36 a driver's license to any person unless such person has demonstrated
37 satisfactorily ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the
38 operation of motor vehicles in the class or classes ~~for which~~ *that* the
39 applicant desires a license to drive. The division shall administer an
40 appropriate examination of each applicant's ability to drive such motor
41 vehicles. Except as provided in K.S.A. 8-2,125 through 8-2,142, and
42 amendments thereto, the director of vehicles may accept a copy of the
43 certificate of a person's road test issued to an individual under the

1 regulatory requirements of the United States department of transportation,
2 in lieu of requiring the person to demonstrate ability to operate any motor
3 vehicle or combination of vehicles, if such certificate was issued not more
4 than three years prior to the person's application for a driver's license.

5 (c) Any person who is the holder of a valid driver's license ~~which that~~
6 entitles the person to drive class A motor vehicles may also drive class B
7 and C motor vehicles. Any person who is the holder of a valid driver's
8 license ~~which that~~ entitles the person to drive class B motor vehicles may
9 also drive class C motor vehicles.

10 (d) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations
11 establishing qualifications for the safe operation of the various types, sizes
12 and combinations of vehicles in each class of motor vehicles established in
13 subsection (a). Such rules and regulations shall include the adoption of at
14 least the minimum qualifications for commercial drivers' licenses
15 contained in the commercial motor vehicle safety act of 1986.

16 (e) Any reference in the motor vehicle drivers' license act to a class or
17 classes of motor vehicles is a reference to the classes of motor vehicles
18 established in subsection (a), and any reference in the motor vehicle
19 drivers' license act to a classified driver's license or a class of driver's
20 license means a driver's license ~~which that~~ restricts the holder thereof to
21 driving one or more of such classes of motor vehicles.

22 (f) The secretary of revenue may enter into a contract with any
23 person, who meets the qualifications imposed on persons regularly
24 employed by the division as drivers' license examiners, to accept
25 applications for drivers' licenses and to administer the examinations
26 required for the issuance of drivers' licenses.

27 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), any person
28 employed as an automotive mechanic who possesses a valid class C
29 driver's license may drive any class A or class B motor vehicle on the
30 highways for the purpose of determining the proper performance of the
31 vehicle, except that this does not include commercial class A, B or C
32 vehicles.

33 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 8-234b is hereby repealed.

34 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
35 publication in the statute book.