

FEB 22 2001

TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE FILE **357**

BY BRADLEY

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the maximum frame and body heights for motor  
2 vehicles and providing a penalty.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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**HF 357**

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 321.468 FRAME AND BODY HEIGHT.

2 1. A person shall not operate a motor vehicle on the roads  
3 of this state if the motor vehicle has a frame or body height  
4 greater than that provided for in this section.

5 a. The following maximum frame heights shall apply to the  
6 following types of motor vehicles:

7 (1) Twenty-three inches for an automobile, except a motor  
8 home or multipurpose vehicle.

9 (2) Twenty-seven inches for a motor vehicle that is not an  
10 automobile, including a motor home or multipurpose vehicle,  
11 that has a gross vehicle weight rating of four thousand five  
12 hundred pounds or less.

13 (3) Thirty inches for a motor vehicle that is not an  
14 automobile, including a motor home or multipurpose vehicle,  
15 that has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than four  
16 thousand five hundred pounds but not more than seven thousand  
17 five hundred pounds.

18 (4) Thirty-one inches for a motor vehicle that is not an  
19 automobile, including a motor home or multipurpose vehicle,  
20 that has a gross vehicle weight rating of more than seven  
21 thousand five hundred pounds but not more than ten thousand  
22 pounds.

23 b. The lowest portion of the body floor of a motor vehicle  
24 shall not be more than five inches above the top of the frame  
25 of the motor vehicle.

26 2. For purposes of this section, the following definitions  
27 shall apply:

28 a. "Frame" means the main longitudinal structural members  
29 of the chassis of a motor vehicle or, for motor vehicles with  
30 unitized body construction, the lowest main longitudinal  
31 structural members of the body of the motor vehicle.

32 b. "Frame height" means the vertical distance between the  
33 ground and the lowest point on the frame, measured when the  
34 vehicle is unladen on a level surface at the lowest point on  
35 the frame midway between the front axle and the second axle on

1 the motor vehicle.

2 c. "Gross vehicle weight rating" means the gross vehicle  
3 weight rating specified by the manufacturer of the motor  
4 vehicle.

5 Sec. 2. WARNING CITATIONS. During the first twelve months  
6 following the effective date of this Act, peace officers shall  
7 issue only warning citations for violations of section  
8 321.468, as enacted in this Act.

9 EXPLANATION

10 This bill creates new Code section 321.468, prohibiting a  
11 person from operating a motor vehicle with a frame or body  
12 height greater than the limits provided in the Code section.  
13 The bill sets the maximum frame height, as defined by the  
14 bill, for all automobiles except motor homes and multipurpose  
15 vehicles at 23 inches. For all other motor vehicles,  
16 including motor homes and multipurpose vehicles, the maximum  
17 frame height is 27 inches if the vehicle is 4,500 pounds or  
18 less, 30 inches if the vehicle is more than 4,500 pounds but  
19 not more than 7,500 pounds, and 31 inches if the vehicle is  
20 more than 7,500 pounds but not more than 10,000 pounds. The  
21 body of a motor vehicle shall not be more than five inches  
22 above the top of the frame of the motor vehicle.

23 A violation of any of the provisions of the bill is a  
24 simple misdemeanor, punishable by confinement for no more than  
25 30 days or a fine of at least \$50 but not more than \$500 or by  
26 both. However, the bill provides that during the first 12  
27 months following enactment, a violation will only result in a  
28 warning citation.

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