



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR STORM DAMAGE

- WHEREAS:** A severe storm system moved across the State of Georgia beginning April 12, 2020 and continuing through the morning hours of April 13, 2020, producing tornadoes, straight line winds, and excessive rainfall; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to extensive damage, Georgia's network of roads and bridges may be impassable, isolating residences and persons from access to essential public services; and
- WHEREAS:** Assistance from the State is necessary to provide for the public's safety, protect private property, and restore the social and economic welfare of the affected counties; and
- WHEREAS:** On March 14, 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 on the State of Georgia, I issued Executive Order No. 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution on March 15, 2020; and
- WHEREAS:** On April 8, 2020, I renewed the Public Health State of Emergency until May 13, 2020 by issuing Executive Order 04.08.20.02; and
- WHEREAS:** This Order shall create a coexisting state of emergency in the State of Georgia with the Public Health State of Emergency described in the immediately preceding paragraphs; and
- WHEREAS:** The responses by the State to this State of Emergency for Storm Damage and the Public Health State of Emergency should both proceed simultaneously, without one impeding the other; and

WHEREAS: Executive Orders 03.14.20.01 and 04.08.20.02 waived compliance with certain rules and regulations for motor carriers and commercial vehicles for the purpose of responding to the Public Health State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS: This Order waives compliance with the same rules and regulations for motor carriers and commercial vehicles as those waived by Executive Orders 03.14.20.01 and 04.08.20.02, but for the purpose of responding to the State of Emergency for Storm Damage declared here; and

WHEREAS: Code Section 38-3-51 vests the Governor with the authority to bring emergency situations under control by issuing orders, rules, and regulations to protect the safety and welfare of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO CODE SECTION 38-3-51, AND THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That a State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the damage that was created by the severe storm system and tornadoes that moved through the State on April 12 and 13, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the State of Emergency declared by this Order shall coexist with the Public Health State of Emergency declared by Executive Order 03.14.20.01 and renewed by Executive Order 04.08.20.02. The existence or termination of one shall not impinge the other.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That any orders derivative of or appurtenant to this Order addressing this State of Emergency for Storm Damage shall not infringe, overturn, or in any way amend any orders that have been issued for the purpose of responding to the Public Health State of Emergency declared by Executive Order 03.14.20.01 and renewed by Executive Order 04.08.20.02.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the federal rules and regulations limiting hours that operators of commercial vehicles may drive are suspended to ensure the uninterrupted supply of petroleum products; emergency or disaster-related materials; supplies; goods and services, including removal of debris; movement of agricultural products; or other food products. This declared emergency justifies a suspension of Part 395 (driver's

hours of service) of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The suspension will remain in effect for ten (10) days or until the emergency condition ceases to exist, whichever is less. Nothing herein will be construed as an exemption from the Commercial Driver's License requirements in 49 C.F.R. 383 and the financial requirements in 49 C.F.R. 387.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That no motor carrier operating under the terms of this State of Emergency for Storm Damage will require or allow an ill or fatigued driver to operate a motor vehicle. A driver who notifies a motor vehicle carrier that he or she needs immediate rest will be given at least ten (10) consecutive hours off-duty before being required to return to service.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That weight, height, and length for any such vehicle traveling through the State of Georgia for the purposes of providing disaster relief related to this State of Emergency for Storm Damage, which traverses roadways maintained by the State of Georgia shall not exceed the following:

- A. A maximum gross vehicle weight for vehicles equipped with five (5) weight-bearing axles, with an outer bridge span of not less than fifty-one (51) feet, shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight of ninety five (95) thousand pounds, a maximum width of ten (10) feet, and an overall length of one hundred (100) feet. Continuous travel is authorized with the proper escorts.
- B. If the width of said vehicle exceeds eight (8) feet six (6) inches and is traveling after daylight, defined as thirty (30) minutes before sunset to thirty (30) minutes after sunrise, the transporter is required to have a vehicle front and a rear escort/amber light when traveling on a two-lane roadway and a vehicle rear escort when traveling on a four-lane highway. Transporters are responsible for ensuring that they have proper oversize signs, markings, flags, and escorts as defined in the Georgia Department of Transportation Rules and Regulations.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That commercial vehicles operating outside the normal weight, height, and length restrictions under the authority of this State of Emergency for Storm Damage shall be issued permits by the Georgia

Department of Public Safety. Said vehicles shall be subject to any special conditions the Georgia Department of Public Safety may list on applicable permits. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, nor shall anything in this Executive Order be construed to relieve compliance with restrictions other than those specified in this Order or from any statute, rule, order, or other legal requirement not specifically waived herein.

Oversize permits may be issued by the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday by calling 404-624-7700 or through the Georgia Permitting and Routing Optimization System online portal at <https://gapros.dot.ga.gov/>.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That this Order does not suspend operation of any state or federal law or regulation, except as specifically described herein, nor do the waiver of rules and regulations in this Order affect or amend similar rule and regulation waivers for motor carriers or commercial vehicles issued in Executive Orders 03.14.20.01 and 04.08.20.02.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That all resources of the State of Georgia be made available to assist in preparation, response, and recovery activities throughout the affected areas, and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency shall activate the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: All provisions of the Order shall become effective upon signature and shall be valid for a period of ten (10) days, expiring Thursday, April 23, 2020 unless the State of Emergency declared in this Order is renewed by the Governor.

This 13th day of April 2020 at 10:29 A.M.



GOVERNOR