

House Bill 693 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Meeks of the 178th, Watson of the 172nd, Dickey of the 140th, Bentley of the 139th, and Pirkle of the 155th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1B of Article 13 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to operation of farm use vehicle, so as to prohibit operation of farm
3 tractors on interstate highways; to provide for an exception; to provide for operation of farm
4 tractors on state and local roadways; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters;
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1B of Article 13 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to operation of farm use vehicle, is amended by adding a new Code section to read
10 as follows:

11 "40-6-308.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Farm tractor' means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm
14 implement, for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry.

15 (2) 'Implement of husbandry' means every device, whether it is self-propelled or not,
16 designed and adapted so as to be used exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or

17 livestock-raising operations or for lifting or carrying an implement of husbandry and, in
18 either case, not subject to registration if operated upon the highways.

19 (b) Farm tractors, except trailers and semitrailers operated in accordance with statutory
20 limits or provisions of Code Sections 32-6-24 and 40-8-50, shall not be permitted to travel
21 upon any highway in this state which is a part of The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of
22 Interstate and Defense Highways, provided that the Department of Public Safety shall have
23 the authority to permit such travel in certain geographic areas of the state as deemed
24 necessary. Farm tractors or implements may be operated on any state or local roadway in
25 this state if the operator complies with Code Section 40-8-4 and has taken reasonable steps
26 to reduce the width of the farm tractor or implement as provided for by the manufacturer.
27 Whenever the width of a farm tractor or implement of husbandry exceeds the width of that
28 portion of a roadway on which the farm tractor or implement is driven, which is marked
29 as a single lane of traffic, or, if the roadway has not been marked for lanes of traffic and
30 the width of the farm tractor or implement exceeds more than 50 percent of the width of
31 the roadway, the operator shall move the farm tractor or implement, as soon as possible,
32 as far to the right-hand side of the roadway as is practicable and safe upon approach of any
33 oncoming or following vehicle and upon approaching the crest of a hill.

34 (c) Upon the immediate approach of a farm tractor or implement of husbandry which
35 cannot be moved by the operator thereof to the far right-hand side of the roadway in
36 compliance with subsection (b) of this Code section, due to the existence of any bridge or
37 guardrail, sign, or any other physical impediment which would not safely allow such tractor
38 or implement to travel on the far right-hand side of the road, the driver of every other
39 vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately pull over to the far right-hand
40 side of the road and remain in such position until the farm tractor or implement has passed.

41 (d) This Code section shall not operate to relieve any operator of a farm tractor or
42 implement of husbandry from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons
43 using the roadway."

44

SECTION 2.

45 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.