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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

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## DIGEST

Dorsey-Colomb (SB 127)

Present law requires every trailer and semitrailer with a loaded gross weight capacity of up to 6,000 pounds to be equipped with safety chains or another safety device approved by the office of state police.

Proposed law changes loaded gross weight capacity to up to 10,000 pounds.

Present law authorizes the state police to approve safety devices other than safety chains to be used when towing trailers or semitrailers. Requires such approval of safety devices to be in writing. Requires state police to inspect such devices before approval. Requires state police to consider the following criteria to determine whether or not to approve a safety device: physical characteristics of the device; methods by which the device is attached to the trailer or semitrailer; overall strength of the device.

Proposed law changes present law to require approval of any and all safety devices. Requires that any safety device used to prevent a trailer or semitrailer from separating from a towing vehicle shall be proven through scientific testing by a qualified laboratory and by a licensed mechanical engineer prior to its presentation to state police for approval.

Proposed law adds the following criteria state police must consider: design, construction, and installation of the device prevents the coupling device from dropping to the ground if such device breaks, fails, or otherwise becomes disconnected; the device provides strength, security of attachment, and directional stability control. Further provides that welding is not allowed to attach safety devices to chains.

Proposed law shall be known as the "Louisiana Trailer Safety Law".

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 32:384(D) and (E); adds R.S. 32:384(F))