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HOUSE BILL 1735

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Goldsmith, Kremen, Jacobsen, K. Schmidt and Quall

Read first time 02/07/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to weight limits for fire trucks; and amending RCW  
2 46.44.091.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.091 and 1989 c 52 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this  
7 section, no special permit shall be issued for movement on any state  
8 highway or route of a state highway within the limits of any city or  
9 town where the gross weight, including load, exceeds the following  
10 limits:

11            (a) Twenty-two thousand pounds on a single axle or on dual axles  
12 with a wheelbase between the first and second axles of less than three  
13 feet six inches;

14            (b) Forty-three thousand pounds on dual axles having a wheelbase  
15 between the first and second axles of not less than three feet six  
16 inches but less than seven feet;

17            (c) On any group of axles or in the case of a vehicle employing two  
18 single axles with a wheel base between the first and last axle of not  
19 less than seven feet but less than ten feet, a weight in pounds

1 determined by multiplying six thousand five hundred times the distance  
2 in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last  
3 axle of the group;

4 (d) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and  
5 last axle of not less than ten feet but less than thirty feet, a weight  
6 in pounds determined by multiplying two thousand two hundred times the  
7 sum of twenty and the distance in feet between the center of the first  
8 axle and the center of the last axle of the group;

9 (e) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and  
10 last axle of thirty feet or greater, a weight in pounds determined by  
11 multiplying one thousand six hundred times the sum of forty and the  
12 distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of  
13 the last axle of the group.

14 (2) The total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles  
15 allowable by special permit under subsection (1) of this section shall  
16 be governed by the lesser of the weights obtained by using the total  
17 number of axles as a group or any combination of axles as a group.

18 (3) The weight limitations pertaining to single axles may be  
19 exceeded to permit the movement of equipment operating upon single  
20 pneumatic tires having a rim width of twenty inches or more and a rim  
21 diameter of twenty-four inches or more or dual pneumatic tires having  
22 a rim width of sixteen inches or more and a rim diameter of twenty-four  
23 inches or more and specially designed vehicles manufactured and  
24 certified for special permits prior to July 1, 1975.

25 (4) Permits may be issued for weights in excess of the limitations  
26 contained in subsection (1) of this section on highways or sections of  
27 highways which have been designed and constructed for weights in excess  
28 of such limitations, or for any shipment duly certified as necessary by  
29 military officials, or by officials of public or private power  
30 facilities, or when in the opinion of the department of transportation  
31 the movement or action is a necessary movement or action: PROVIDED,  
32 That in the judgment of the department of transportation the structures  
33 and highway surfaces on the routes involved are capable of sustaining  
34 weights in excess of such limitations and it is not reasonable for  
35 economic or operational considerations to transport such excess weights  
36 by rail or water for any substantial distance of the total mileage  
37 applied for.

38 (5) Permits may be issued for the operation of fire trucks on the  
39 public highways if the maximum gross weight on any single axle does not

1 exceed twenty-four thousand pounds and the gross weight on any tandem  
2 axle does not exceed forty-three thousand pounds. In accordance with  
3 subsection (4) of this section, the following weight limits apply to  
4 aerial ladder fire trucks only: A two-axle aerial ladder fire truck  
5 and a two-axle aerial water tower shall not exceed thirty-one thousand  
6 pounds on the rear axle. A three-axle aerial platform ladder fire  
7 truck shall not exceed fifty-three thousand pounds on the tandem axle  
8 assembly. An aerial ladder fire truck, two-axle combination shall not  
9 exceed twenty-seven thousand pounds on the single-drive axle of the  
10 power unit.

11 (6) Application shall be made in writing on special forms provided  
12 by the department of transportation and shall be submitted at least  
13 thirty-six hours in advance of the proposed movement. An application  
14 for a special permit for a gross weight of any combination of vehicles  
15 exceeding two hundred thousand pounds shall be submitted in writing to  
16 the department of transportation at least thirty days in advance of the  
17 proposed movement.

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