
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6265

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators King, Warnick, Bailey, Schoesler, Hasegawa, Conway, Takko, Nelson, Padden, Benton, Ericksen, Honeyford, Parlette, and Hewitt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle weight limits for the movement of
2 agricultural commodities; and amending RCW 46.44.041, 46.44.091, and
3 36.75.270.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.041 and 1997 c 198 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no
8 vehicle or combination of vehicles shall operate upon the public
9 highways of this state with a gross load on any single axle in excess
10 of twenty thousand pounds, or upon any group of axles in excess of
11 that set forth in the following table, except that two consecutive
12 sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand
13 pounds each, if the overall distance between the first and last axles
14 of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.

15 Maximum load in pounds carried
16 on any group of 2 or more
17 consecutive axles

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| | Distance in feet | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| | between the | | | | | | | | |
| | extremes of any | | | | | | | | |
| | group of 2 or | | | | | | | | |
| | more | | | | | | | | |
| consecutive | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| axles | axles | axles | axles | axles | axles | axles | axles | axles | axles |
| 4 | 34,000 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 34,000 | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 34,000 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 34,000 | | | | | | | | |
| 8 & less | 34,000 | 34,000 | | | | | | | |
| more than 8 | 38,000 | 42,000 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 39,000 | 42,500 | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 40,000 | 43,500 | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | 44,000 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | 45,000 | 50,000 | | | | | | |
| 13 | | 45,500 | 50,500 | | | | | | |
| 14 | | 46,500 | 51,500 | | | | | | |
| 15 | | 47,000 | 52,000 | | | | | | |
| 16 | | 48,000 | 52,500 | 58,000 | | | | | |
| 17 | | 48,500 | 53,500 | 58,500 | | | | | |
| 18 | | 49,500 | 54,000 | 59,000 | | | | | |
| 19 | | 50,000 | 54,500 | 60,000 | | | | | |
| 20 | | 51,000 | 55,500 | 60,500 | 66,000 | | | | |
| 21 | | 51,500 | 56,000 | 61,000 | 66,500 | | | | |
| 22 | | 52,500 | 56,500 | 61,500 | 67,000 | | | | |
| 23 | | 53,000 | 57,500 | 62,500 | 68,000 | | | | |
| 24 | | 54,000 | 58,000 | 63,000 | 68,500 | 74,000 | | | |
| 25 | | 54,500 | 58,500 | 63,500 | 69,000 | 74,500 | | | |
| 26 | | 55,500 | 59,500 | 64,000 | 69,500 | 75,000 | | | |
| 27 | | 56,000 | 60,000 | 65,000 | 70,000 | 75,500 | | | |
| 28 | | 57,000 | 60,500 | 65,500 | 71,000 | 76,500 | 82,000 | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 29 | 57,500 | 61,500 | 66,000 | 71,500 | 77,000 | 82,500 | |
| 2 | 30 | 58,500 | 62,000 | 66,500 | 72,000 | 77,500 | 83,000 | |
| 3 | 31 | 59,000 | 62,500 | 67,500 | 72,500 | 78,000 | 83,500 | |
| 4 | 32 | 60,000 | 63,500 | 68,000 | 73,000 | 78,500 | 84,500 | 90,000 |
| 5 | 33 | | 64,000 | 68,500 | 74,000 | 79,000 | 85,000 | 90,500 |
| 6 | 34 | | 64,500 | 69,000 | 74,500 | 80,000 | 85,500 | 91,000 |
| 7 | 35 | | 65,500 | 70,000 | 75,000 | 80,500 | 86,000 | 91,500 |
| 8 | 36 | | 66,000 | 70,500 | 75,500 | 81,000 | 86,500 | 92,000 |
| 9 | 37 | | 66,500 | 71,000 | 76,000 | 81,500 | 87,000 | 93,000 |
| 10 | 38 | | 67,500 | 71,500 | 77,000 | 82,000 | 87,500 | 93,500 |
| 11 | 39 | | 68,000 | 72,500 | 77,500 | 82,500 | 88,500 | 94,000 |
| 12 | 40 | | 68,500 | 73,000 | 78,000 | 83,500 | 89,000 | 94,500 |
| 13 | 41 | | 69,500 | 73,500 | 78,500 | 84,000 | 89,500 | 95,000 |
| 14 | 42 | | 70,000 | 74,000 | 79,000 | 84,500 | 90,000 | 95,500 |
| 15 | 43 | | 70,500 | 75,000 | 80,000 | 85,000 | 90,500 | 96,000 |
| 16 | 44 | | 71,500 | 75,500 | 80,500 | 85,500 | 91,000 | 96,500 |
| 17 | 45 | | 72,000 | 76,000 | 81,000 | 86,000 | 91,500 | 97,500 |
| 18 | 46 | | 72,500 | 76,500 | 81,500 | 87,000 | 92,500 | 98,000 |
| 19 | 47 | | 73,500 | 77,500 | 82,000 | 87,500 | 93,000 | 98,500 |
| 20 | 48 | | 74,000 | 78,000 | 83,000 | 88,000 | 93,500 | 99,000 |
| 21 | 49 | | 74,500 | 78,500 | 83,500 | 88,500 | 94,000 | 99,500 |
| 22 | 50 | | 75,500 | 79,000 | 84,000 | 89,000 | 94,500 | 100,000 |
| 23 | 51 | | 76,000 | 80,000 | 84,500 | 89,500 | 95,000 | 100,500 |
| 24 | 52 | | 76,500 | 80,500 | 85,000 | 90,500 | 95,500 | 101,000 |
| 25 | 53 | | 77,500 | 81,000 | 86,000 | 91,000 | 96,500 | 102,000 |
| 26 | 54 | | 78,000 | 81,500 | 86,500 | 91,500 | 97,000 | 102,500 |
| 27 | 55 | | 78,500 | 82,500 | 87,000 | 92,000 | 97,500 | 103,000 |
| 28 | 56 | | 79,500 | 83,000 | 87,500 | 92,500 | 98,000 | 103,500 |
| 29 | 57 | | 80,000 | 83,500 | 88,000 | 93,000 | 98,500 | 104,000 |
| 30 | 58 | | | 84,000 | 89,000 | 94,000 | 99,000 | 104,500 |
| 31 | 59 | | | 85,000 | 89,500 | 94,500 | 99,500 | 105,500 |
| 32 | 60 | | | 85,500 | 90,000 | 95,000 | 100,500 | 105,500 |
| 33 | 61 | | | 86,000 | 90,500 | 95,500 | 101,000 | 105,500 |
| 34 | 62 | | | 86,500 | 91,000 | 96,000 | 101,500 | 105,500 |
| 35 | 63 | | | 87,500 | 92,000 | 96,500 | 102,000 | 105,500 |
| 36 | 64 | | | 88,000 | 92,500 | 97,500 | 102,500 | 105,500 |

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|----|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 65 | 88,500 | 93,000 | 98,000 | 103,000 | 105,500 |
| 2 | 66 | 89,000 | 93,500 | 98,500 | 103,500 | 105,500 |
| 3 | 67 | 90,000 | 94,000 | 99,000 | 104,500 | 105,500 |
| 4 | 68 | 90,500 | 95,000 | 99,500 | 105,000 | 105,500 |
| 5 | 69 | 91,000 | 95,500 | 100,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 6 | 70 | 91,500 | 96,000 | 101,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 7 | 71 | 92,500 | 96,500 | 101,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 8 | 72 | 93,000 | 97,000 | 102,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 9 | 73 | 93,500 | 98,000 | 102,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 10 | 74 | 94,000 | 98,500 | 103,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 11 | 75 | 95,000 | 99,000 | 103,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 12 | 76 | 95,500 | 99,500 | 104,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 13 | 77 | 96,000 | 100,000 | 105,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 14 | 78 | 96,500 | 101,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 15 | 79 | 97,500 | 101,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 16 | 80 | 98,000 | 102,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 17 | 81 | 98,500 | 102,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 18 | 82 | 99,000 | 103,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 19 | 83 | 100,000 | 104,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 20 | 84 | | 104,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 21 | 85 | | 105,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |
| 22 | 86 or more | | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 105,500 |

23 When inches are involved: Under six inches take lower, six inches or
24 over take higher. The maximum load on any axle in any group of axles
25 shall not exceed the single axle or tandem axle allowance as set
26 forth in the table above.

27 The maximum axle and gross weights specified in this section are
28 subject to the braking requirements set up for the service brakes
29 upon any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles as provided by law.

30 Loads of not more than eighty thousand pounds which may be
31 legally hauled in the state bordering this state which also has a
32 sales tax, are legal in this state when moving to a port district
33 within four miles of the bordering state except on the interstate
34 system. This provision does not allow the operation of a vehicle
35 combination consisting of a truck tractor and three trailers.

36 Notwithstanding anything contained herein, a vehicle or
37 combination of vehicles in operation on January 4, 1975, may operate

1 upon the public highways of this state, including the interstate
2 system within the meaning of section 127 of Title 23, United States
3 Code, with an overall gross weight upon a group of two consecutive
4 sets of dual axles which was lawful in this state under the laws,
5 regulations, and procedures in effect in this state on January 4,
6 1975.

7 (2) A vehicle or combination of vehicles may exceed the weight
8 limits established under subsection (1) of this section by up to two
9 thousand pounds when operating upon the public highways of this state
10 that are not part of the federal-aid interstate system and carrying
11 an agricultural commodity. The exemption provided in this subsection
12 (2) does not allow a vehicle or combination of vehicles to exceed any
13 posted weight limit for a bridge. For purposes of this subsection,
14 "agricultural commodity" means crops produced on a farm or ranch
15 during harvest season and transported from the farm or ranch to the
16 processing location.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.091 and 2001 c 262 s 2 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

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

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

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

30 (c) On any group of axles or in the case of a vehicle employing
31 two single axles with a wheel base between the first and last axle of
32 not less than seven feet but less than ten feet, a weight in pounds
33 determined by multiplying six thousand five hundred times the
34 distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center
35 of the last axle of the group;

36 (d) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and
37 last axle of not less than ten feet but less than thirty feet, a
38 weight in pounds determined by multiplying two thousand two hundred

1 times the sum of twenty and the distance in feet between the center
2 of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group;

3 (e) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and
4 last axle of thirty feet or greater, a weight in pounds determined by
5 multiplying one thousand six hundred times the sum of forty and the
6 distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center
7 of the last axle of the group.

8 (2) The total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles
9 allowable by special permit under subsection (1) of this section
10 shall be governed by the lesser of the weights obtained by using the
11 total number of axles as a group or any combination of axles as a
12 group.

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

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

33 (5) Application shall be made in writing on special forms
34 provided by the department of transportation and shall be submitted
35 at least thirty-six hours in advance of the proposed movement. An
36 application for a special permit for a gross weight of any
37 combination of vehicles exceeding two hundred thousand pounds shall
38 be submitted in writing to the department of transportation at least
39 thirty days in advance of the proposed movement.

1 (6) A special permit is not required for a vehicle or combination
2 of vehicles meeting the exemption under RCW 46.44.041(2).

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.75.270 and 1963 c 4 s 36.75.270 are each amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The board of county commissioners of each county may by
6 resolution limit or prohibit classes or types of vehicles on any
7 county road or bridge and may limit the weight of vehicles which may
8 travel thereon. Any such resolution shall be effective for a definite
9 period of time which shall be stated in the resolution. If such
10 resolution is published at least once in a newspaper of general
11 circulation in the county and if signs indicating such closure or
12 limitation of traffic have been posted on such road or bridge, any
13 person violating such resolution shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

14 (2) However, a vehicle or combination of vehicles may exceed the
15 weight limits established by a board of county commissioners under
16 subsection (1) of this section by up to two thousand pounds when
17 operating upon the public highways of the state and are carrying an
18 agricultural commodity. The exemption provided in this subsection (2)
19 does not allow a vehicle or combination of vehicles to exceed any
20 posted weight limit for a bridge. For purposes of this subsection,
21 "agricultural commodity" means crops produced on a farm or ranch
22 during harvest season and transported from the farm or ranch to the
23 processing location.

--- END ---