
HOUSE BILL 1712

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Dye, Schmick, Chapman, Caldier, Gregerson, Eslick, Blake, Kraft, Van Werven, Dent, and Chambers

Read first time 01/29/19. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing vehicles or combinations of
2 vehicles carrying farm products to exceed total gross weight limits
3 by two thousand pounds; and amending RCW 46.44.041, 46.44.091, and
4 36.75.270.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.041 and 2016 c 24 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

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

16 The following table is based on the following formula: $W =$
17 $500((LN/N-1)+12N+36)$. W is the maximum weight in pounds (to the
18 nearest 500 pounds) carried on any group of two (2) or more
19 consecutive axles. L is the distance in feet between the extremes of

1 any group of two (2) or more consecutive axles. N is the number of
 2 axles under consideration.

3 Maximum load in pounds carried
 4 on any group of 2 or more
 5 consecutive axles

6 Distance in feet
 7 between the
 8 extremes of any

9 group of 2 or
 10 more
 11 consecutive
 12 axles

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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	49,000					
12		45,000	50,000					
13		45,500	50,500					
14		46,500	51,500	56,500				
15		47,000	52,000	57,000				
16		48,000	52,500	58,000				
17		48,500	53,500	58,500				
18		49,500	54,000	59,000	64,500			
19		50,000	54,500	60,000	65,000			
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000			
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	72,000		
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	72,500		
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	73,000		
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000		
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500	80,000	
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000	80,500	

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

1	63	87,500	92,000	96,500	102,000	105,500
2	64	88,000	92,500	97,500	102,500	105,500
3	65	88,500	93,000	98,000	103,000	105,500
4	66	89,000	93,500	98,500	103,500	105,500
5	67	90,000	94,000	99,000	104,500	105,500
6	68	90,500	95,000	99,500	105,000	105,500
7	69	91,000	95,500	100,000	105,500	105,500
8	70	91,500	96,000	101,000	105,500	105,500
9	71	92,500	96,500	101,500	105,500	105,500
10	72	93,000	97,000	102,000	105,500	105,500
11	73	93,500	98,000	102,500	105,500	105,500
12	74	94,000	98,500	103,000	105,500	105,500
13	75	95,000	99,000	103,500	105,500	105,500
14	76	95,500	99,500	104,500	105,500	105,500
15	77	96,000	100,000	105,000	105,500	105,500
16	78	96,500	101,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
17	79	97,500	101,500	105,500	105,500	105,500
18	80	98,000	102,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
19	81	98,500	102,500	105,500	105,500	105,500
20	82	99,000	103,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
21	83	100,000	104,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
22	84		104,500	105,500	105,500	105,500
23	85		105,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
24	86 or more		105,500	105,500	105,500	105,500

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

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

32 Loads of not more than eighty thousand pounds which may be
33 legally hauled in the state bordering this state which also has a
34 sales tax, are legal in this state when moving to a port district
35 within four miles of the bordering state except on the interstate

1 system. This provision does not allow the operation of a vehicle
2 combination consisting of a truck tractor and three trailers.

3 Notwithstanding anything contained herein, a vehicle or
4 combination of vehicles in operation on January 4, 1975, may operate
5 upon the public highways of this state, including the interstate
6 system within the meaning of section 127 of Title 23, United States
7 Code, with an overall gross weight upon a group of two consecutive
8 sets of dual axles which was lawful in this state under the laws,
9 regulations, and procedures in effect in this state on January 4,
10 1975.

11 (2) Vehicles or combinations of vehicles carrying farm products,
12 as defined in RCW 7.48.310, may exceed the weight limits in
13 subsection (1) of this section by up to two thousand pounds, as
14 determined by the vehicle operator, in excess of any axle, internal
15 axle spacing, or gross vehicle weight limit when operating upon any
16 highway that is not part of the federal-aid interstate system. The
17 exemption provided in this subsection does not allow a vehicle or
18 combination of vehicles to exceed any posted weight limit for a
19 bridge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 be submitted in writing to the department of transportation at least
2 thirty days in advance of the proposed movement.

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

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

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

16 (2) However, vehicles or combinations of vehicles carrying farm
17 products, as defined in RCW 7.48.310, may exceed the weight limits
18 established by a board of county commissioners under subsection (1)
19 of this section by up to two thousand pounds, as determined by the
20 vehicle operator, in excess of any axle, internal axle spacing, or
21 gross vehicle weight limit when operating upon the public highways of
22 the state. The exemption provided in this subsection (2) does not
23 allow a vehicle or combination of vehicles to exceed any posted
24 weight limit for a bridge.

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