
SENATE BILL 5199

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Poulsen, Swecker and Haugen; by request of Department of Transportation

Read first time 01/18/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle length and width measurement exclusive
2 devices and specialized equipment; amending RCW 46.44.010 and
3 46.44.030; and adding a new section to chapter 46.44 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.010 and 1997 c 63 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The total outside width of any vehicle or load thereon (~~shall~~)
8 must not exceed eight and one-half feet(~~(:—PROVIDED, That no~~)); except
9 that an externally mounted rear vision mirror may extend (~~(more than~~
10 ~~five inches)~~) beyond the (~~extreme~~) width limits of the vehicle
11 body(~~(:—PROVIDED FURTHER, That)~~) to a point that allows the driver a
12 view to the rear of the vehicle along both sides in conformance with
13 Federal National Safety Standard 111 (49 C.F.R. 571.111), and RCW
14 46.37.400. Excluded from this calculation of width are (~~safety~~
15 ~~appliances such as clearance lights, rub rails, flexible fender~~
16 ~~extensions, mud flaps, and splash and spray suppressant devices, and~~
17 ~~appurtenances such as door handles, door hinges, and turning signal~~
18 ~~brackets and such other safety appliances and appurtenances as the~~
19 ~~department may determine are necessary for the safe and efficient~~

1 ~~operation of motor vehicles: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no appliances~~
2 ~~or appurtenances may))~~ certain devices that provide added safety,
3 energy conservation, or are otherwise necessary, and are not designed
4 or used to carry cargo. The width-exclusive devices must be identified
5 in rules adopted by the department of transportation under section 3 of
6 this act. A width-exclusive device must not extend more than three
7 inches beyond the ((~~extreme~~)) width limit((~~s~~)) of the vehicle body.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.030 and 2000 c 102 s 1 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 It is unlawful for any person to operate upon the public highways
11 of this state any vehicle having an overall length, with or without
12 load, in excess of forty feet. This restriction does not apply to (1)
13 a municipal transit vehicle, (2) auto stage, private carrier bus,
14 school bus, or motor home with an overall length not to exceed forty-
15 six feet, or (3) an articulated auto stage with an overall length not
16 to exceed sixty-one feet.

17 It is unlawful for any person to operate upon the public highways
18 of this state any combination consisting of a tractor and semitrailer
19 that has a semitrailer length in excess of fifty-three feet or a
20 combination consisting of a tractor and two trailers in which the
21 combined length of the trailers exceeds sixty-one feet, with or without
22 load.

23 It is unlawful for any person to operate on the highways of this
24 state any combination consisting of a truck and trailer, or log truck
25 and stinger-steered pole trailer, with an overall length, with or
26 without load, in excess of seventy-five feet. ((~~However, a combination~~
27 ~~of vehicles transporting automobiles or boats may have a front overhang~~
28 ~~of three feet and a rear overhang of four feet beyond this allowed~~
29 ~~length.)) "Stinger-steered," as used in this section, means the
30 coupling device is located behind the tread of the tires of the last
31 axle of the towing vehicle.~~

32 These length limitations do not apply to vehicles transporting
33 poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of a structural nature that
34 cannot be dismembered and operated by a public utility when required
35 for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties, but in
36 respect to night transportation every such vehicle and load thereon

1 shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both
2 sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to
3 clearly mark the dimensions of the load.

4 ~~((The length limitations described in this section are exclusive of
5 safety and energy conservation devices, such as mud flaps and splash
6 and spray suppressant devices, refrigeration units or air compressors,
7 and other devices that the department determines to be necessary for
8 safe and efficient operation of commercial vehicles. No device
9 excluded under this paragraph from the limitations of this section may
10 have, by its design or use, the capability to carry cargo.))~~ Excluded
11 from the calculation of length are certain devices that provide added
12 safety, energy conservation, or are otherwise necessary, and are not
13 designed or used to carry cargo. The length-exclusive devices must be
14 identified in rules adopted by the department of transportation under
15 section 3 of this act.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 46.44 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 The department of transportation may, within the provisions set
19 forth in this chapter, adopt rules for size and weight criteria
20 relating to vehicles considered to be specialized equipment by the
21 federal highway administration for interstate travel or as determined
22 by the department for intrastate travel.

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