

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1991

C 143 L 91

Synopsis As Enacted

Brief Description: Adjusting certain vehicle size and weight restrictions.

By Representatives R. Fisher, Betrozoff, R. Meyers and McLean; by request of Department of Transportation.

House Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Transportation

Background: In 1982 Congress created a "specialized equipment" category to accommodate the movement of auto and boat transporters. By Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rule, these vehicles may have a three-foot front and four-foot rear overhang beyond the otherwise maximum length of 75 feet; this extends the overall length of the vehicle to 82 feet. State law restricts the length of the overhang on any vehicle to 15 feet beyond the center of the last axle. For certain auto transporters, this 15-foot restriction imposed by the state does not allow the vehicle to reach its maximum legal length under federal law of 82 feet.

In 1990 FHWA added to the specialized equipment category a combination consisting of four trucks and/or tractors with one truck or tractor towing the other three in a "triple saddlemount" position. The movement of a triple saddlemount combination currently requires a permit from the Department of Transportation (DOT).

FHWA has informed the DOT that the State must comply with federal regulations by: (1) exempting specialized equipment from the 15-foot overhang restriction; and (2) allowing the movement of a triple saddlemount combination without a permit.

Summary: State law is brought into compliance with federal regulations governing specialized equipment by: (1) exempting auto and boat transporters from the state's 15-foot vehicle overhang restriction; and (2) authorizing a combination with an overall length of 75 feet that consists of a truck or tractor towing three trucks or tractors in a triple saddlemount position.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 97 0
Senate 45 0

Effective: July 28, 1991