

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1991

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 28, 1991

Brief Description: Adjusting certain vehicle size and weight restrictions.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chairman; Nelson, Vice Chairman; von Reichbauer, Vice Chairman; Barr, Conner, Erwin, Hansen, Madsen, McMullen, Oke, Sellar, Skratek, Snyder, Thorsness, and Vognild.

Staff: Mary McLaughlin (786-7309)

Hearing Dates: March 28, 1991

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 does not allow the vehicle to reach its maximum legal length of 82 feet.

In 1990 FHWA added a combination consisting of four trucks and/or tractors with one truck or tractor towing the other three in a "triple saddlemount" position to the specialized equipment category. 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.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

TESTIMONY FOR: None

TESTIMONY AGAINST: None

TESTIFIED: No one