
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1117

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Ericksen, Linville, Newhouse, Buri, Strow and B. Sullivan)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to the highway weight limit for farm implements;
2 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
5 farming industry of Washington is a vital state economic interest.
6 Over the past decade, the number of operating farms has decreased while
7 the average farm size has increased. With stricter regulations
8 regarding the management of livestock nutrients, advances in farming
9 and farm equipment technology, and larger distances between farms, the
10 demand to increase farm equipment carrying capacity has increased.

11 (2) The legislature directs the Washington state department of
12 transportation to study the issue of enabling Washington state farms to
13 operate in an economically feasible manner while following federal and
14 state laws, including laws regarding livestock nutrient management, and
15 protecting state roads and highways. The department shall work with
16 the United States department of transportation, local transportation
17 authorities, transportation agencies in other states, and legislative
18 members and/or staff. By December 1, 2005, the department shall report

1 its findings and recommendations to the transportation committees of
2 the legislature.

3 (3) Until such study and any subsequent law changes are completed,
4 farm implements transporting dairy nutrients in order to comply with
5 the dairy nutrient management act may travel on city and county roads,
6 under the following conditions:

7 (a) The total gross weight for the entire vehicle and load does not
8 exceed 105,500 pounds.

9 (b) The vehicle uses an axle configuration and low pressure tires
10 that maximize distribution of vehicle and load weight.

11 (c) A city or county road authority may place restrictions on the
12 weight of the load carried by the farm implement, the manner in which
13 the load is carried, the times of the year the farm implement may
14 travel, and the route or routes traveled in order to avoid reasonably
15 likely damage to city or county roads.

16 (4) Until the study referenced in subsection (2) of this section is
17 completed and any subsequent law changes take effect, the legislature
18 respectfully requests the United States department of transportation to
19 allow the vehicles described in subsection (3) of this section to
20 travel on Washington state highways, under rules or policies adopted by
21 the Washington state department of transportation that are designed to
22 allow necessary movement of farm implements to comply with the dairy
23 nutrient management act while mitigating risk of damage to state
24 highways.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
28 immediately.

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