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HOUSE BILL 1941

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells and McCoy

1 AN ACT Relating to towing vehicles; amending RCW 46.44.036; adding  
2 a new section to chapter 46.44 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.44 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) A person may only operate upon the public roadways of this  
7 state a vehicle combination that meets the following requirements:

8 (a) The tow vehicle within the vehicle combination must:

9 (i) Be properly registered in compliance with RCW 46.17.355;

10 (ii) Have a progressive brake controller; and

11 (iii) Not exceed sixty miles per hour;

12 (b) The vehicle combination must not:

13 (i) Weigh more than twenty-six thousand pounds cumulatively; and

14 (ii) Have a combined length greater than seventy-five feet;

15 (c) The first vehicle being towed in the vehicle combination must  
16 be a fifth wheel-type vehicle;

17 (d) Any vehicle over three thousand pounds that is being towed in  
18 the vehicle combination must have breakaway safety switches;

1 (e) All towed vehicles in the vehicle combination must be within  
2 the manufacturer's hitch weight limit for the applicable vehicle's  
3 hitch;

4 (f) The second vehicle being towed in the vehicle combination must  
5 be equipped with safety chains; and

6 (g) All tow vehicles within the vehicle combination must be in  
7 compliance with the manufacturer's tow capacity specifications.

8 (2) For the purposes of this section, "vehicle combination" means  
9 any combination of vehicles consisting of at least two, but not more  
10 than three, vehicles.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.036 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 64 s 8 are each  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Except as provided in RCW 46.44.037, it is unlawful for any person  
14 to operate upon the public highways of this state any combination of  
15 vehicles consisting of more than ~~((two))~~ three vehicles. For the  
16 purposes of this section, a truck tractor-semitrailer or pole trailer  
17 combination will be considered as two vehicles but the addition of  
18 another axle to the tractor of a truck tractor-semitrailer or pole  
19 trailer combination in such a way that it supports a proportional share  
20 of the load of the semitrailer or pole trailer ~~((shall))~~ is not ~~((be))~~  
21 deemed a separate vehicle but ~~((shall-be))~~ is considered a part of the  
22 truck tractor. For the purposes of this section, a converter gear used  
23 in converting a semitrailer to a full trailer ~~((shall))~~ is not ~~((be))~~  
24 deemed a separate vehicle but ~~((shall-be))~~ is considered a part of the  
25 trailer.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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