
Transportation Committee

SSB 5824

Brief Description: Concerning fifth-wheel travel trailers.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators King, Chapman, Dozier and Shewmake).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Allows the operation of a fifth-wheel on public highways that does not exceed 46 feet in length when measuring from the center of the kingpin to the rearmost point of the vehicle.

Hearing Date: 2/26/26

Staff: Sandy Myer (786-7140).

Background:

No person may operate on the public highways any vehicle with an overall length, with or without load, in excess of 40 feet (ft).

This restriction does not apply to:

- a municipal transit vehicle;
- an auto stage, private carrier bus, school bus, or motor home with an overall length not to exceed 46 ft;
- an articulated auto stage with an overall length not to exceed 61 ft, excluding a bike rack up to 4 ft in length; or
- an auto recycling carrier up to 42 ft in length manufactured prior to 2005.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

A person may operate a fifth-wheel vehicle on public highways that does not exceed 46 ft in length when measuring from the center of the kingpin to the rearmost point of the vehicle.

A fifth-wheel is defined as a vehicle primarily designed for recreational camping or travel use that does not have its own motive power, and is primarily mounted on, or hitched within, the bed of a pickup truck.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.