

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**EHB 1118**

**AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 26, 1991**

**Brief Description:** Adjusting length restrictions on buses.

**SPONSORS:** Representatives R. Fisher, R. Meyers, Schmidt and Prince.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chairman; Nelson, Vice Chairman; Barr, Erwin, Hansen, Oke, Sellar, Snyder, Thorsness, and Vognild.

**Staff:** Mary McLaughlin (786-7309)

**Hearing Dates:** March 26, 1991

**BACKGROUND:**

Single unit vehicles, including auto stages (for-hire buses) and school buses, may not exceed 40 feet in length. Municipal transit vehicles are exempt from this restriction.

Some motorcoach companies are now purchasing and operating articulated buses which exceed the 40-foot restriction. The states of Alaska, California, Oregon, Nevada and all Canadian provinces allow the operation of articulated auto stages up to an overall length of 60 feet.

**SUMMARY:**

Operation of an articulated auto stage with a maximum overall length of 61 feet is allowed on Washington highways.

The language authorizing the DOT or a local legislative authority to restrict the routing of an auto stage or school bus is deleted as this authorization is addressed in a separate statute and is therefore housekeeping in nature.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

Increasing the overall bus length will make the length requirement the same for private and public articulated busses

and bring the state into compliance with surrounding states  
and provinces.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** David Beagle, WA Motorcoach Assn. (pro)