

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## EHB 1271

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As Amended by the Senate

**Title:** An act relating to lawful vehicle lengths.

**Brief Description:** Prescribing allowed vehicle lengths.

**Sponsors:** Representatives R. Fisher, Schmidt, R. Meyers, Brown, Jones, Horn and Wood; by request of Department of Transportation.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Transportation, February 4, 1993, DPA;  
Passed House, March 5, 1993, 91-0;  
Amended by Senate.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended. Signed by 23 members: Representatives R. Fisher, Chair; Brown, Vice Chair; Jones, Vice Chair; Schmidt, Ranking Minority Member; Mielke, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Brough; Brumsickle; Cothorn; Eide; Forner; Fuhrman; Hansen; Heavey; Horn; Johanson; J. Kohl; H. Myers; Orr; Quall; Sheldon; Shin; Wood; and Zellinsky.

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

**Background:** The state of Washington is currently in non-compliance with the following federal regulations contained in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991:

(1) Federal law allows the operation of a combination consisting of two 28-1/2 foot trailers. In order to provide an adequate turning radius, the overall length of the combination is 61 feet. Current state law restricts the legal length of a double trailer combination to 60 feet.

(2) Federal code sets the legal maximum overall length for a bus at 45 feet. With the exception of articulated auto stages and municipal transit vehicles, Washington's statutes limit bus lengths to a maximum of 40 feet.

**Summary of Bill:** Washington's statutes are brought into compliance with ISTEA's vehicle length provisions:

(1) The legal length of a double trailer combination is increased from 60 to 61 feet to accommodate the operation of a combination consisting of two 28-1/2 foot trailers; and

(2) The length of a bus (auto stage, private carrier bus or school bus) is increased from 40 to 45 feet.

**EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):** The Senate amendment increases the bus length from 45 feet to 46 feet to clarify that the overall length includes bumpers. Buses 45 feet in length are actually 45 feet 6 inches when measured bumper to bumper.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The state is brought into compliance with federal vehicle length laws, thereby promoting conformity with our neighboring states.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Barry Diseth, Department of Transportation.

**VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE:**

Yeas 91; Excused 3; Absent 4

Excused: Representatives Dyer, Eide, Locke

Absent: Representatives Anderson, Mastin, Pruitt, Scott