

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## EHB 1271

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C 301 L 93  
Synopsis as Enacted

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

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

House Committee on Transportation  
Senate Committee on Transportation

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

- (1) Federal law allows the operation of a combination consisting of two 28 and one-half 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 minimum 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:** 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 and one-half foot trailers; and
- (2) The length of a bus (auto stage, private carrier bus or school bus) is increased from 40 to 46 feet.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

|        |    |   |                   |
|--------|----|---|-------------------|
| House  | 91 | 0 |                   |
| Senate | 43 | 1 | (Senate amended)  |
| House  | 95 | 0 | (House concurred) |

**Effective:** July 25, 1993