

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 1271

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 24, 1993

Brief Description: Prescribing allowed vehicle lengths.

SPONSORS: 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

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Vognild, Chairman; Loveland, Vice Chairman; Skratek, Vice Chairman; Barr, Drew, Nelson, Oke, Prentice, Prince, M. Rasmussen, Sheldon, and Winsley.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Haugen.

Staff: Mary McLaughlin (786-7309)

Hearing Dates: March 24, 1993

BACKGROUND:

The state of Washington is currently in noncompliance 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:

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.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SENATE AMENDMENT:

The bus length is increased from 45 to 46 feet to clarify that the overall length includes bumpers (45 foot buses are actually 45 feet 6 inches when measured bumper to bumper).

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

TESTIMONY FOR:

The state is brought into compliance with federal length laws, thereby promoting conformity with our neighboring states.

TESTIMONY AGAINST: None

TESTIFIED: PRO: Larry Pursley, WA Trucking Assn.; Barry Diseth, WSDOT; Vern Lindskog, WA Motorcoach Assn.; David Beagle, Grayline