
HOUSE BILL 1271

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

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

Read first time 01/20/93. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to lawful vehicle lengths; and amending RCW
2 46.44.030.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.030 and 1991 c 113 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 It is unlawful for any person to operate upon the public highways
7 of this state any vehicle having an overall length, with or without
8 load, in excess of forty feet. This restriction does not apply to (1)
9 a (~~municipal transit vehicle~~) bus with an overall length not to
10 exceed forty-five feet or (2) an articulated auto stage with an overall
11 length not to exceed sixty-one feet.

12 It is unlawful for any person to operate on the highways of this
13 state any combination of vehicles that contains a vehicle in excess of
14 forty-eight feet, with or without load.

15 It is unlawful for any person to operate upon the public highways
16 of this state any combination consisting of a tractor and semitrailer
17 that has a semitrailer length in excess of forty-eight feet or a
18 combination consisting of a tractor and two trailers in which the

1 combined length of the trailers exceeds sixtyone feet, with or without
2 load.

3 It is unlawful for any person to operate on the highways of this
4 state any combination consisting of a truck and trailer with an overall
5 length, with or without load, in excess of seventy-five feet. However,
6 a combination of vehicles transporting automobiles or boats may have a
7 front overhang of three feet and a rear overhang of four feet beyond
8 this allowed length.

9 These length limitations do not apply to vehicles transporting
10 poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of a structural nature that
11 cannot be dismembered and operated by a public utility when required
12 for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties, but in
13 respect to night transportation every such vehicle and load thereon
14 shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both
15 sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to
16 clearly mark the dimensions of the load.

17 The length limitations described in this section are exclusive of
18 safety and energy conservation devices, such as mud flaps and splash
19 and spray suppressant devices, refrigeration units or air compressors,
20 and other devices that the department determines to be necessary for
21 safe and efficient operation of commercial vehicles. No device
22 excluded under this paragraph from the limitations of this section may
23 have, by its design or use, the capability to carry cargo.

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