

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1270

As Reported By House Committee On:

Transportation

Title: An act relating to farm vehicle exceptions to commercial driver's license requirements.

Brief Description: Excusing small tree harvesters from the commercial driver's license requirements.

Sponsors: Representatives Morris, Benton, Sheldon, Pennington, Basich, Chappell, Kessler, Schoesler, Boldt, Hatfield, Stevens and Johnson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 2/6/95, 2/15/95 [DPS].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 23 members: Representatives K. Schmidt, Chairman; Benton, Vice Chairman; Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Skinner, Vice Chairman; R. Fisher, Ranking Minority Member; Hatfield, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Backlund; Buck; Cairnes; Chandler; Elliot; Hankins; Horn; Johnson; Koster; McMahan; Ogden; Patterson; Quall; Robertson; Romero; D. Schmidt and Scott.

Staff: Brian McMorrow (786-7304).

Background: A driver of a commercial vehicle must obtain a commercial driver's license with an endorsement for the type of vehicle he or she is driving. The law exempts farmers who use their own vehicles to transport their agricultural products or farm-related materials distances less than 150 miles from their farms. It also exempts drivers of emergency vehicles and recreational vehicles used for noncommercial purposes.

Summary of Substitute Bill: Farmers who haul Christmas trees and wood products from their own land need not obtain a commercial driver's license.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The substitute bill more clearly defines the commercial driver's license exemption for farmers. The original bill inadvertently exempted drivers of large logging trucks.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

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

Testimony For: Farmers should not have to apply for a commercial driver's license to occasionally haul trees that have blown down on their land.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Jack Schumacher, Washington Farm Forestry Association (pro); Bob Leichner, Washington State Patrol (pro with amendment); Nels Hanson, Washington Farm Forestry Association (pro); and Greg Hanon, Washington Christmas Tree Growers (pro with amendment).