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HOUSE BILL 2634

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Romero, Fisher, DeBolt and Boldt

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to standards for emergency load restrictions on  
2 state and local highways; amending RCW 46.44.080; adding new sections  
3 to chapter 46.44 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.080 and 1977 ex.s. c 151 s 29 are each amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department of transportation and local authorities, with  
8 respect to public highways under their jurisdiction, may prohibit the  
9 operation thereon of motor trucks or other vehicles or may impose  
10 limits as to the weight thereof, or any other restrictions as may be  
11 deemed necessary, whenever any such public highway by reason of rain,  
12 snow, climatic, or other conditions, will be seriously damaged or  
13 destroyed unless the operation of vehicles thereon be prohibited or  
14 restricted or the permissible weights thereof reduced(~~(:—PROVIDED,~~  
15 ~~That)).~~ Whenever a highway has been closed generally to vehicles or  
16 specified classes of vehicles, the department and local authorities  
17 shall (~~by general rule or~~) by special permit authorize the operation  
18 thereon of school buses, private carrier buses used as school buses,  
19 authorized emergency vehicles, and motor trucks transporting perishable

1 commodities or services or commodities necessary for the health and  
2 welfare of local residents under such weight and speed restrictions as  
3 the department and the local authorities deem necessary to protect the  
4 highway from undue damage(~~(: PROVIDED FURTHER, That)~~). The governing  
5 authorities of incorporated cities and towns shall not prohibit the use  
6 of any city street designated by the transportation commission as  
7 forming a part of the route of any primary state highway through any  
8 such incorporated city or town by vehicles or any class of vehicles or  
9 impose any restrictions or reductions in permissible weights unless  
10 ((such)) the restriction, limitation, or prohibition, or reduction in  
11 permissible weights ((be)) is first approved in writing by the  
12 department of transportation.

13 (2) The department shall give public notice of a road closure or  
14 imposed restriction. Local authorities imposing any such restrictions  
15 or limitations, or prohibiting any use or reducing the permissible  
16 weights shall do so by proper ordinance or resolution ((and)). The  
17 department or local authorities shall erect or cause to be erected and  
18 maintained signs designating the provisions of the public notice,  
19 ordinance, or resolution ((in)) at each end of the portion of any  
20 public highway affected thereby, and no such public notice, ordinance,  
21 or resolution ((shall be)) is effective unless and until such signs are  
22 erected and maintained.

23 (~~The department shall have the same authority as hereinabove~~  
24 ~~granted to local authorities to prohibit or restrict the operation of~~  
25 ~~vehicles upon state highways. The department shall give public notice~~  
26 ~~of closure or restriction. The department may issue special permits~~  
27 ~~for the operation of school buses and motor trucks transporting~~  
28 ~~perishable commodities or commodities necessary for the health and~~  
29 ~~welfare of local residents under specified weight and speed~~  
30 ~~restrictions as may be necessary to protect any state highway from~~  
31 ~~undue damage.))~~

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 46.44 RCW  
33 to read as follows:

34 (1) Road restrictions imposed by the department or local  
35 authorities must be categorized either as "emergency load restrictions"  
36 or "severe emergency load restrictions." The emergency load limitation  
37 imposed by local authorities must be based on the "Severe Emergency

1 Load Restrictions" table only. The condition existing at the time will  
2 determine which of the two schedules will be imposed.

3 EMERGENCY LOAD RESTRICTIONS

4 CONVENTIONAL TIRES		TIRES WITH .5 MARKING	
5 Tire Size	Gross Load	Tire Size	Gross Load
6	Each Tire		Each Tire
7 7.00	1800 lbs.	8x22.5	2250 lbs.
8 7.50	2250 lbs.	9x22.5	2800 lbs.
9 8.25	2800 lbs.	10x22.5	3400 lbs.
10 9.00	3400 lbs.	11x22.5	4000 lbs.
11 10.00	4000 lbs.	11x24.5	4000 lbs.
12 11.00	4500 lbs.	12x22.5	4500 lbs.
13 12.00		12x24.5	
14 & over	4500 lbs.	& over	4500 lbs.

15 SEVERE EMERGENCY LOAD RESTRICTIONS

16 CONVENTIONAL TIRES		TIRES WITH .5 MARKING	
17 Tire Size	Gross Load	Tire Size	Gross Load
18	Each Tire		Each Tire
19 7.00	1800 lbs.	8x22.5	1800 lbs.
20 7.50	1800 lbs.	9x22.5	1900 lbs.
21 8.25	1900 lbs.	10x22.5	2250 lbs.
22 9.00	2250 lbs.	11x22.5	2750 lbs.
23 10.00	2750 lbs.	11x24.5	2750 lbs.
24 11.00		12x22.5	
25 & over	3000 lbs.	& over	3000 lbs.

26 (a) No allowance will be made for axles other than the primary  
27 steering axle and drive axle(s).

28 (b) The load distribution on any one axle of the vehicle must be  
29 such that it will not load the tires on that axle in excess of the  
30 prescribed load listed in the table above. However, a truck, truck  
31 tractor, auto stage, municipal transit vehicle, school bus, or private  
32 carrier bus used as a school bus having conventional 10.00 x 20 tires  
33 or 11.00 x 22.5 tires, or larger, may carry a maximum load of 10,000  
34 pounds on the front axle over a public highway placed under emergency  
35 load restrictions.

1 (2) For purposes of this section:

2 (a) "Perishable commodity" means a product of agriculture,  
3 aquaculture, or manufacture that by its nature is subject to  
4 destruction, decay, deterioration, or spoilage except under proper  
5 conditions. At least fifty percent of the load must be perishables.

6 (b) "Services or commodities necessary for the health and welfare  
7 of local residents" means (i) a service provided to the public that is  
8 necessary to maintain essential power, gas, communications, garbage,  
9 sewer, or water services and (ii) commodities provided to the public  
10 that are necessary in providing food, shelter, or fuel.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.44 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 The department of transportation, in conjunction with the county  
14 road administration board, shall adopt rules for imposition of road  
15 restrictions under RCW 46.44.080. The initial rules will be effective  
16 July 1, 2003, and must be reviewed by the department of transportation  
17 and the county road administration board at least every two years.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act expires July 1, 2003.

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