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SENATE BILL 5878

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Oke and Haugen

Read first time 02/06/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to wheel load limits for nonliftable steering axles  
2 on refuse collection vehicles; and amending RCW 46.44.042.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.042 and 1996 c 116 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Except as expressly provided in this section for nonliftable  
7 steering axles on a refuse collection vehicle, and subject to the  
8 maximum gross weights specified in RCW 46.44.041, it is unlawful to  
9 operate any vehicle upon the public highways with a gross weight,  
10 including load, upon any tire concentrated upon the surface of the  
11 highway in excess of six hundred pounds per inch width of such tire.  
12 An axle manufactured after July 31, 1993, carrying more than ten  
13 thousand pounds gross weight must be equipped with four or more tires.  
14 Effective January 1, 1997, an axle carrying more than ten thousand  
15 pounds gross weight must have four or more tires, regardless of date of  
16 manufacture. Instead of the four or more tires per axle requirements  
17 of this section, an axle may be equipped with two tires limited to five  
18 hundred pounds per inch width of tire. This section does not apply to

1 vehicles operating under oversize or overweight permits, or both,  
2 issued under RCW 46.44.090, while carrying a nonreducible load.

3 The following equipment may operate at six hundred pounds per inch  
4 width of tire: (1) Except for a refuse collection vehicle, a  
5 nonliftable steering axle or axles on the power unit; (2) a tiller axle  
6 on fire fighting apparatus; (3) a rear booster trailing axle equipped  
7 with two tires on a ready-mix concrete transit truck; and (4) a  
8 straddle trailer manufactured before January 1, 1996, equipped with  
9 single-tire axles or a single axle using a walking beam supported by  
10 two in-line single tires and used exclusively for the transport of  
11 fruit bins between field, storage, and processing. A straddle trailer  
12 manufactured after January 1, 1996, meeting this use criteria may carry  
13 five hundred fifteen pounds per inch width of tire on sixteen and one-  
14 half inch wide tires. The maximum wheel load for a nonliftable  
15 steering axle on a refuse collection vehicle is the load limit of the  
16 tire as certified by the state patrol.

17 For the purpose of this section, the width of tire in case of solid  
18 rubber or hollow center cushion tires, so long as the use thereof may  
19 be permitted by the law, shall be measured between the flanges of the  
20 rim. For the purpose of this section, the width of tires in case of  
21 pneumatic tires shall be the maximum overall normal inflated width as  
22 stipulated by the manufacturer when inflated to the pressure specified  
23 and without load thereon.

24 The department of transportation, under rules adopted by the  
25 transportation commission with respect to state highways, and a local  
26 authority, with respect to a public highway under its jurisdiction, may  
27 extend the weight table in RCW 46.44.041 to one hundred fifteen  
28 thousand pounds. However, the extension must be in compliance with  
29 federal law, and vehicles operating under the extension must be in full  
30 compliance with the 1997 axle and tire requirements under this section.

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