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HOUSE BILL 1181

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Flannigan, Ericksen, Wallace, Woods, Chase and Kilmer; by request of Department of Transportation

Read first time 01/18/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to transferring overweight sealed ocean-going  
2 containers between ocean marine terminals and railheads; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 46.44 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is often  
6 necessary to move sealed ocean-going containers over segments of state  
7 highway within port district property to complete transfer between ship  
8 and railcar. The legislature finds that the movement of sealed ocean-  
9 going containers within port district property at legal weight limits  
10 can be a hardship to the ports and their contractors due to the  
11 frequency of moves, the scarcity of appropriate chassis, and the  
12 economic incentive to load each container to capacity. The legislature  
13 finds that the creation of a heavy haul industrial corridor within port  
14 district property would dramatically improve the economy and efficiency  
15 of moving sealed ocean-going containers by allowing for permitted moves  
16 in excess of legal weight limits over relatively short distances. The  
17 legislature finds that the department of transportation has the  
18 expertise to analyze vehicle size and weight impacts on the  
19 infrastructure and determine the suitability of state highway segments

1 to be heavy haul industrial corridors, set permitted weight limits  
2 within established parameters, and manage multijurisdictional  
3 agreements for maintenance and repair of the identified corridors.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.44 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The department of transportation, with respect to state highways  
7 maintained within port district property, may make and enter into  
8 agreements with port districts and adjacent jurisdictions or agencies  
9 of the districts, for the purpose of identifying, managing, and  
10 maintaining heavy haul industrial corridors within port district  
11 property. The purpose of a heavy haul industrial corridor is to  
12 accommodate the movement of overweight sealed ocean-going containers  
13 over relatively short distances to complete transfer between ocean  
14 marine terminals and railheads.

15 The department may issue special permits to vehicles operating in  
16 the heavy haul industrial corridor to carry weight in excess of weight  
17 limits established in RCW 46.44.041. However, the excess weight on a  
18 single axle, tandem axle, or any axle group must not exceed that  
19 allowed by RCW 46.44.091 (1) and (2), weight per tire must not exceed  
20 six hundred pounds per inch width of tire, and gross vehicle weight  
21 must not exceed one hundred five thousand five hundred pounds.

22 The entity operating vehicles moving overweight sealed ocean-going  
23 containers must pay a fee for each special permit of one hundred  
24 dollars per month or one thousand dollars annually, beginning from the  
25 date of issue, for all movements under the special permit made on state  
26 highways within the heavy haul industrial corridor. All funds  
27 collected, except the amount retained by authorized agents of the  
28 department under RCW 46.44.096, must be forwarded to the state  
29 treasurer and deposited in the motor vehicle fund.

30 For purposes of this section, a sealed ocean-going container,  
31 including its contents, is considered nondivisible when transported  
32 within a heavy haul industrial corridor defined by the department.

33 The department of transportation may adopt reasonable rules to  
34 implement this section.

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