

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 6273

As Passed House:

March 6, 2008

Title: An act relating to the nondivisible gross weight limit of farm implements on public highways.

Brief Description: Addressing the nondivisible gross weight limit of farm implements on public highways.

Sponsors: By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen and Rasmussen).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 2/21/08, 2/27/08 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/6/08, 93-0.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Increases the weight restriction on farm implements from 45,000 pounds to 65,000 pounds.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 24 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Flannigan, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Schindler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Campbell, Eddy, Herrera, Hudgins, Jarrett, Kristiansen, Loomis, Rodne, Rolfes, Sells, Simpson, Smith, Springer, Takko, Upthegrove, Wallace, Warnick, Williams and Wood.

Staff: Jerry Long (786-7306).

Background:

Current law restricts the length, width, and weight of vehicles that may operate on public highways. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is authorized to issue special permits to

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vehicles that exceed the length, width, or weight restrictions. The DOT may issue three-month or annual permits to farm implements with a gross weight less than 45,000 pounds. This permit allows a farmer or dealer to move the equipment from one location to another. The implement must move on pneumatic tires or solid rubber tracks. Many modern farm implements have a gross weight greater than 45,000 pounds.

Summary of Bill:

The weight restriction for vehicles that may operate on a farm implement special permit is increased to 65,000 pounds. Vehicles operating on a farm implement special permit must comply with the statute that governs the distribution of the vehicle's weight over a specified wheelbase and number of axles.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

None.

Persons Testifying: None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.