
Transportation Committee

SSB 6138

Brief Description: Increasing the allowable maximum length for vehicles operated on public highways.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senator Ericksen).

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increases the allowable maximum length for single vehicles from 40 feet to 46 feet to operate in the State of Washington.

Hearing Date: 2/24/12

Staff: Jerry Long (786-7306).

Background:

Single trucks are defined as non-articulating cargo-carrying commercial motor vehicles. The trucks are subject to federal weight and width requirements, but not to federal length requirements. The regulations on the length of these commercial trucks remains with the states. A person operating one of these single vehicles with a manufacturer's weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more would also be required to have a commercial driver's license.

Presently a person cannot legally operate a single vehicle in the State of Washington having an overall length in excess of 40 feet. This restriction does not apply to: (1) a municipal transit vehicle; (2) auto stage, private carrier bus, school bus, or motor home with an overall length not to exceed 46 feet; or (3) an articulating auto stage with an overall length not to exceed 61 feet.

Summary of Bill:

The substitute bill increases the length of a single vehicle that a person can operate in the State of Washington from 40 feet to 46 feet. Vehicles excluded from the maximum length remain unchanged. The substitute bill removes the exemptions for the auto stage, private carrier bus,

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school bus, and motor home exemptions since these vehicles would be included within the new 46-foot length limit.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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