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HOUSE BILL 1222

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives McBride, Griffey, Clibborn, Orcutt, Van De Wege, Fey, Takko, Young, Sawyer, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/15/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to firefighting apparatus length and weight  
2 limits; and amending RCW 46.44.190.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.190 and 2002 c 231 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) As used in this section, "firefighting apparatus" means a  
7 vehicle or combination of vehicles, owned by a regularly organized  
8 fire suppression agency, designed, maintained, and used exclusively  
9 for fire suppression and rescue or for fire prevention activities.  
10 These vehicles and associated loads or equipment are necessary to  
11 protect the public safety and are considered nondivisible loads. A  
12 vehicle or combination of vehicles that is not designed primarily for  
13 fire suppression including, but not limited to, a hazardous materials  
14 response vehicle, bus, mobile kitchen, mobile sanitation facility,  
15 and heavy equipment transport vehicle is not a firefighting apparatus  
16 for purposes of this section.

17 (2) Firefighting apparatus must comply with all applicable  
18 federal and state vehicle operating and safety criteria, including  
19 rules adopted by agencies within each jurisdiction.

20 (3) All owners and operators of firefighting apparatus shall  
21 comply with current information, provided by the department,

1 regarding the applicable load restrictions of state and local bridges  
2 within the designated fire service area, including any automatic or  
3 mutual aid agreement areas.

4 (4) Firefighting apparatus operating within a fire district or  
5 municipal department boundary of the owner of the apparatus,  
6 including any automatic or mutual aid agreement areas, may operate  
7 without a permit if:

8 (a) The weight does not exceed:

9 (i) 600 pounds per inch width of tire;

10 (ii) 24,000 pounds on a single axle;

11 (iii) 43,000 pounds on a tandem axle set;

12 (iv) 67,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, subject to the gross  
13 weight limits of RCW 46.44.091(1) (c), (d), and (e);

14 (v) The tire manufacturer's tire load rating.

15 (b) There is no tridem axle set.

16 (c) The dimensions do not exceed:

17 (i) 8 feet, 6 inches wide;

18 (ii) 14 feet high;

19 (iii) ~~((50))~~ 65 feet overall length;

20 (iv) 15 foot front overhang;

21 (v) Rear overhang not exceeding the length of the wheel base.

22 (5) Operators of firefighting apparatus that exceed the weight  
23 limits in subsection (4) of this section must apply for an overweight  
24 permit with the department. The maximum weight a firefighting  
25 apparatus may weigh is 50,000 pounds on the tandem axle set and  
26 31,000 pounds on a single drive axle, and may not exceed ~~((600))~~ 670  
27 pounds per inch width of tire. The maximum weight limit must include  
28 the weight of a full water tank, if applicable, all equipment  
29 necessary for operation, and the normal number of personnel usually  
30 assigned to be on board, or four personnel, whichever is greater. At  
31 least four personnel must be physically present at the time the  
32 apparatus is weighed.

33 (6) When applying for a permit, a current weight slip from a  
34 certified scale must be attached to the department's application  
35 form. Upon receiving an application, the department shall transmit it  
36 to the local jurisdictions in which the firefighting apparatus will  
37 be operating, so that the local jurisdictions can make a  
38 determination on the need for local travel and route restrictions  
39 within the operating area. The department shall issue a permit within  
40 twenty days of receiving a permit application and shall issue the

1 permit on an annual basis for the apparatus to operate on the state  
2 highway system, with reference made to applicable load restrictions  
3 and any other limitations stipulated on the permit, including  
4 limitations placed by local jurisdictions.

5 (7) Firefighting apparatus in operation in this state before June  
6 13, 2002, and privately owned industrial firefighting apparatus used  
7 for purposes of providing emergency response and mutual aid are each  
8 exempt from subsections (4) and (5) of this section. However,  
9 operators of the exempt firefighting apparatus must still obtain an  
10 annual permit under subsection (6) of this section.

11 (8) Firefighting apparatus without the proper overweight permits  
12 are prohibited from being operated on city, county, or state roadways  
13 until the apparatus is within legal weight limits and a current  
14 permit has been issued by the department. When the permit is issued,  
15 the fire district must notify the Washington state patrol that the  
16 apparatus is in compliance with overweight permit regulations.

17 (9) The Washington state patrol may conduct random spot checks of  
18 firefighting apparatus to ensure compliance with overweight permit  
19 regulations. If a firefighting apparatus is found to be not in  
20 compliance with overweight permit regulations, the state patrol shall  
21 issue a violation notice to the fire department stating this fact and  
22 prohibiting operation of the apparatus on city, county, and state  
23 roadways.

24 (10) It is a traffic infraction to continue to operate a  
25 firefighting apparatus on the roadways after a violation notice has  
26 been issued. The following penalties apply:

27 (a) For a first offense, the penalty will be no less than fifty  
28 dollars but no more than fifty dollars;

29 (b) For a second offense, the penalty will be no less than  
30 seventy-five dollars;

31 (c) For a third or subsequent offense, the penalty will be no  
32 less than one hundred dollars.

33 (11) No individual liability attaches to an employee or volunteer  
34 of the penalized fire department.

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