
SENATE BILL 6265

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators King, Warnick, Bailey, Schoesler, Hasegawa, Conway, Takko, Nelson, Padden, Benton, Ericksen, Honeyford, Parlette, and Hewitt

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle weight limits for the movement of
2 agricultural commodities; and amending RCW 46.44.041, 46.44.091, and
3 36.75.270.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.041 and 1997 c 198 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no
8 vehicle or combination of vehicles shall operate upon the public
9 highways of this state with a gross load on any single axle in excess
10 of twenty thousand pounds, or upon any group of axles in excess of
11 that set forth in the following table, except that two consecutive
12 sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand
13 pounds each, if the overall distance between the first and last axles
14 of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.

15 Maximum load in pounds carried
16 on any group of 2 or more
17 consecutive axles

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	Distance in feet							
	between the							
	extremes of any							
	group of 2 or							
	more							
consecutive	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles	axles
4	34,000							
5	34,000							
6	34,000							
7	34,000							
8 & less	34,000	34,000						
more than 8	38,000	42,000						
9	39,000	42,500						
10	40,000	43,500						
11		44,000						
12		45,000	50,000					
13		45,500	50,500					
14		46,500	51,500					
15		47,000	52,000					
16		48,000	52,500	58,000				
17		48,500	53,500	58,500				
18		49,500	54,000	59,000				
19		50,000	54,500	60,000				
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000			
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500			
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000			
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000			
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000		
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500		
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000		
27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500		
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500	82,000	

1	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000	82,500	
2	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500	83,000	
3	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000	83,500	
4	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500	84,500	90,000
5	33		64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000	85,000	90,500
6	34		64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000	85,500	91,000
7	35		65,500	70,000	75,000	80,500	86,000	91,500
8	36		66,000	70,500	75,500	81,000	86,500	92,000
9	37		66,500	71,000	76,000	81,500	87,000	93,000
10	38		67,500	71,500	77,000	82,000	87,500	93,500
11	39		68,000	72,500	77,500	82,500	88,500	94,000
12	40		68,500	73,000	78,000	83,500	89,000	94,500
13	41		69,500	73,500	78,500	84,000	89,500	95,000
14	42		70,000	74,000	79,000	84,500	90,000	95,500
15	43		70,500	75,000	80,000	85,000	90,500	96,000
16	44		71,500	75,500	80,500	85,500	91,000	96,500
17	45		72,000	76,000	81,000	86,000	91,500	97,500
18	46		72,500	76,500	81,500	87,000	92,500	98,000
19	47		73,500	77,500	82,000	87,500	93,000	98,500
20	48		74,000	78,000	83,000	88,000	93,500	99,000
21	49		74,500	78,500	83,500	88,500	94,000	99,500
22	50		75,500	79,000	84,000	89,000	94,500	100,000
23	51		76,000	80,000	84,500	89,500	95,000	100,500
24	52		76,500	80,500	85,000	90,500	95,500	101,000
25	53		77,500	81,000	86,000	91,000	96,500	102,000
26	54		78,000	81,500	86,500	91,500	97,000	102,500
27	55		78,500	82,500	87,000	92,000	97,500	103,000
28	56		79,500	83,000	87,500	92,500	98,000	103,500
29	57		80,000	83,500	88,000	93,000	98,500	104,000
30	58			84,000	89,000	94,000	99,000	104,500
31	59			85,000	89,500	94,500	99,500	105,500
32	60			85,500	90,000	95,000	100,500	105,500
33	61			86,000	90,500	95,500	101,000	105,500
34	62			86,500	91,000	96,000	101,500	105,500
35	63			87,500	92,000	96,500	102,000	105,500
36	64			88,000	92,500	97,500	102,500	105,500

1	65	88,500	93,000	98,000	103,000	105,500
2	66	89,000	93,500	98,500	103,500	105,500
3	67	90,000	94,000	99,000	104,500	105,500
4	68	90,500	95,000	99,500	105,000	105,500
5	69	91,000	95,500	100,000	105,500	105,500
6	70	91,500	96,000	101,000	105,500	105,500
7	71	92,500	96,500	101,500	105,500	105,500
8	72	93,000	97,000	102,000	105,500	105,500
9	73	93,500	98,000	102,500	105,500	105,500
10	74	94,000	98,500	103,000	105,500	105,500
11	75	95,000	99,000	103,500	105,500	105,500
12	76	95,500	99,500	104,500	105,500	105,500
13	77	96,000	100,000	105,000	105,500	105,500
14	78	96,500	101,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
15	79	97,500	101,500	105,500	105,500	105,500
16	80	98,000	102,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
17	81	98,500	102,500	105,500	105,500	105,500
18	82	99,000	103,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
19	83	100,000	104,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
20	84		104,500	105,500	105,500	105,500
21	85		105,000	105,500	105,500	105,500
22	86 or more		105,500	105,500	105,500	105,500

23 When inches are involved: Under six inches take lower, six inches or
24 over take higher. The maximum load on any axle in any group of axles
25 shall not exceed the single axle or tandem axle allowance as set
26 forth in the table above.

27 The maximum axle and gross weights specified in this section are
28 subject to the braking requirements set up for the service brakes
29 upon any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles as provided by law.

30 Loads of not more than eighty thousand pounds which may be
31 legally hauled in the state bordering this state which also has a
32 sales tax, are legal in this state when moving to a port district
33 within four miles of the bordering state except on the interstate
34 system. This provision does not allow the operation of a vehicle
35 combination consisting of a truck tractor and three trailers.

36 Notwithstanding anything contained herein, a vehicle or
37 combination of vehicles in operation on January 4, 1975, may operate

1 upon the public highways of this state, including the interstate
2 system within the meaning of section 127 of Title 23, United States
3 Code, with an overall gross weight upon a group of two consecutive
4 sets of dual axles which was lawful in this state under the laws,
5 regulations, and procedures in effect in this state on January 4,
6 1975.

7 (2) A vehicle or combination of vehicles may exceed the weight
8 limits established under subsection (1) of this section by up to two
9 thousand pounds when operating upon the public highways of this state
10 that are not part of the federal-aid interstate system and carrying
11 an agricultural commodity, as defined in RCW 17.21.020. The exemption
12 provided in this subsection (2) does not allow a vehicle or
13 combination of vehicles to exceed any posted weight limit for a
14 bridge.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.091 and 2001 c 262 s 2 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (3) and (4) of
18 this section, no special permit shall be issued for movement on any
19 state highway or route of a state highway within the limits of any
20 city or town where the gross weight, including load, exceeds the
21 following limits:

22 (a) Twenty-two thousand pounds on a single axle or on dual axles
23 with a wheelbase between the first and second axles of less than
24 three feet six inches;

25 (b) Forty-three thousand pounds on dual axles having a wheelbase
26 between the first and second axles of not less than three feet six
27 inches but less than seven feet;

28 (c) On any group of axles or in the case of a vehicle employing
29 two single axles with a wheel base between the first and last axle of
30 not less than seven feet but less than ten feet, a weight in pounds
31 determined by multiplying six thousand five hundred times the
32 distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center
33 of the last axle of the group;

34 (d) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and
35 last axle of not less than ten feet but less than thirty feet, a
36 weight in pounds determined by multiplying two thousand two hundred
37 times the sum of twenty and the distance in feet between the center
38 of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group;

1 (e) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and
2 last axle of thirty feet or greater, a weight in pounds determined by
3 multiplying one thousand six hundred times the sum of forty and the
4 distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center
5 of the last axle of the group.

6 (2) The total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles
7 allowable by special permit under subsection (1) of this section
8 shall be governed by the lesser of the weights obtained by using the
9 total number of axles as a group or any combination of axles as a
10 group.

11 (3) The weight limitations pertaining to single axles may be
12 exceeded to permit the movement of equipment operating upon single
13 pneumatic tires having a rim width of twenty inches or more and a rim
14 diameter of twenty-four inches or more or dual pneumatic tires having
15 a rim width of sixteen inches or more and a rim diameter of twenty-
16 four inches or more and specially designed vehicles manufactured and
17 certified for special permits prior to July 1, 1975.

18 (4) Permits may be issued for weights in excess of the
19 limitations contained in subsection (1) of this section on highways
20 or sections of highways which have been designed and constructed for
21 weights in excess of such limitations, or for any shipment duly
22 certified as necessary by military officials, or by officials of
23 public or private power facilities, or when in the opinion of the
24 department of transportation the movement or action is a necessary
25 movement or action: PROVIDED, That in the judgment of the department
26 of transportation the structures and highway surfaces on the routes
27 involved are capable of sustaining weights in excess of such
28 limitations and it is not reasonable for economic or operational
29 considerations to transport such excess weights by rail or water for
30 any substantial distance of the total mileage applied for.

31 (5) Application shall be made in writing on special forms
32 provided by the department of transportation and shall be submitted
33 at least thirty-six hours in advance of the proposed movement. An
34 application for a special permit for a gross weight of any
35 combination of vehicles exceeding two hundred thousand pounds shall
36 be submitted in writing to the department of transportation at least
37 thirty days in advance of the proposed movement.

38 (6) A special permit is not required for a vehicle or combination
39 of vehicles meeting the exemption under RCW 46.44.041(2).

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.75.270 and 1963 c 4 s 36.75.270 are each amended
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The board of county commissioners of each county may by
4 resolution limit or prohibit classes or types of vehicles on any
5 county road or bridge and may limit the weight of vehicles which may
6 travel thereon. Any such resolution shall be effective for a definite
7 period of time which shall be stated in the resolution. If such
8 resolution is published at least once in a newspaper of general
9 circulation in the county and if signs indicating such closure or
10 limitation of traffic have been posted on such road or bridge, any
11 person violating such resolution shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

12 (2) However, a vehicle or combination of vehicles may exceed the
13 weight limits established by a board of county commissioners under
14 subsection (1) of this section by up to two thousand pounds when
15 operating upon the public highways of the state and are carrying an
16 agricultural commodity, as defined in RCW 17.21.020. The exemption
17 provided in this subsection (2) does not allow a vehicle or
18 combination of vehicles to exceed any posted weight limit for a
19 bridge.

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