
SENATE BILL 6501

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senator Braun

Read first time 01/22/16. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the use of certain cargo
2 extensions that connect to a recreational vehicle frame; amending RCW
3 46.04.620 and 46.44.037; creating a new section; and providing an
4 effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
7 ensure that a cargo-carrying extension on the rear of a recreational
8 vehicle must safely carry the weight of the cargo by requiring, if
9 necessary, that the unit have an axle and two wheels, acting as a tag
10 axle, to accommodate the weight and size of the cargo.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.04.620 and 1974 ex.s. c 76 s 3 are each amended
12 to read as follows:

13 "Trailer" includes every vehicle without motive power designed
14 for being drawn by or used in conjunction with a motor vehicle
15 constructed so that no appreciable part of its weight rests upon or
16 is carried by such motor vehicle, but does not include a municipal
17 transit vehicle, or any portion thereof. "Trailer" does not include a
18 cargo extension that connects to the left and right side of a
19 recreational vehicle frame and (1) becomes part of the frame, (2)

1 does not pivot on a hitch, and (3) has an axle with two wheels,
2 acting as a tag axle, to safely carry the weight of the cargo.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.44.037 and 2011 c 230 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 46.44.036 and subject to
6 such rules and regulations governing their operation as may be
7 adopted by the state department of transportation, operation of the
8 following combinations is lawful:

9 (1) A combination consisting of a truck tractor, a semitrailer,
10 and another semitrailer or a full trailer. In this combination a
11 converter gear used to convert a semitrailer into a full trailer
12 shall be considered to be a part of the full trailer and not a
13 separate vehicle. A converter gear being pulled without load and not
14 used to convert a semitrailer into a full trailer may be substituted
15 in lieu of a full trailer or a semitrailer in any lawful combination;

16 (2) A combination consisting of a truck tractor carrying a
17 freight compartment no longer than eight feet, a semitrailer, and
18 another semitrailer or full trailer that meets the legal length
19 requirement for a truck and trailer combination set forth in RCW
20 46.44.030;

21 (3) A recreational vehicle with a cargo extension that connects
22 to the left and right side of a recreational vehicle frame and (a)
23 becomes part of the frame, (b) does not pivot on a hitch, and (c) has
24 an axle with two wheels, acting as a tag axle, to safely carry the
25 weight of the cargo.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 1, 2016.

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