
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1149

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Chapman, Clibborn, Orcutt, and Fey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to exemptions from certain maximum vehicle length
2 limitations; and amending RCW 46.44.034 and 46.44.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.034 and 1997 c 191 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The load, or any portion of any vehicle, operated alone upon
7 the public highway of this state, or the load, or any portion of the
8 front vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall not extend more
9 than three feet beyond the front wheels of such vehicle, or the front
10 bumper, if equipped with front bumper. This subsection does not apply
11 to a (a) front-loading garbage truck or recycling truck while on
12 route and actually engaged in the collection of solid waste or
13 recyclables at speeds of twenty miles per hour or less or (b) public
14 transit vehicle equipped with a bike rack up to four feet in length.

15 (2) No vehicle shall be operated upon the public highways with
16 any part of the permanent structure or load extending in excess of
17 fifteen feet beyond the center of the last axle of such vehicle. This
18 subsection does not apply to "specialized equipment" designated under
19 49 U.S.C. Sec. 2311 that is operated on the interstate highway
20 system, those designated portions of the federal-aid primary system,

1 and routes constituting reasonable access from such highways to
2 terminals and facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.030 and 2012 c 79 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 It is unlawful for any person to operate upon the public highways
6 of this state any vehicle having an overall length, with or without
7 load, in excess of forty feet. This restriction does not apply to (1)
8 a municipal transit vehicle, (2) auto stage, private carrier bus,
9 school bus, or motor home with an overall length not to exceed forty-
10 six feet, (3) an articulated auto stage with an overall length not to
11 exceed sixty-one feet, excluding a bike rack up to four feet in
12 length, or (4) an auto recycling carrier up to forty-two feet in
13 length manufactured prior to 2005.

14 It is unlawful for any person to operate upon the public highways
15 of this state any combination consisting of a tractor and semitrailer
16 that has a semitrailer length in excess of fifty-three feet or a
17 combination consisting of a tractor and two trailers in which the
18 combined length of the trailers exceeds sixty-one feet, with or
19 without load.

20 It is unlawful for any person to operate on the highways of this
21 state any combination consisting of a truck and trailer, or log truck
22 and stinger-steered pole trailer, with an overall length, with or
23 without load, in excess of seventy-five feet. "Stinger-steered," as
24 used in this section, means the coupling device is located behind the
25 tread of the tires of the last axle of the towing vehicle.

26 These length limitations do not apply to vehicles transporting
27 poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of a structural nature that
28 cannot be dismembered and operated by a public utility when required
29 for emergency repair of public service facilities or properties, but
30 in respect to night transportation every such vehicle and load
31 thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps
32 on both sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any
33 projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load.

34 Excluded from the calculation of length are certain devices that
35 provide added safety, energy conservation, or are otherwise
36 necessary, and are not designed or used to carry cargo. The length-

1 exclusive devices must be identified in rules adopted by the
2 department of transportation under RCW 46.44.101.

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