
HOUSE BILL 2692

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Doglio, Irwin, Walsh, Lovick, and Fitzgibbon

Read first time 01/17/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle combinations that may be operated on
2 public highways; and amending RCW 46.44.030 and 46.44.037.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.030 and 2018 c 105 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

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

1 (b) The restriction under this subsection does not apply to two
2 trailers or semitrailers with a total weight that does not exceed
3 twenty-six thousand pounds and when the two trailers or semitrailers
4 do not carry property but constitute inventory property of a
5 manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers. The total
6 combination under this subsection (2)(b) may not exceed eighty-two
7 feet of overall length.

8 (c) The restriction under this subsection does not apply to
9 combinations of commercial vehicles operating on highways federally
10 approved and designated by the state department of transportation as
11 authorized by RCW 46.44.037(4).

12 (3) It is unlawful for any person to operate on the highways of
13 this state any combination consisting of a truck and trailer, or log
14 truck and stinger-steered pole trailer, with an overall length, with
15 or without load, in excess of seventy-five feet. "Stinger-steered,"
16 as used in this section, means the coupling device is located behind
17 the tread of the tires of the last axle of the towing vehicle.

18 (4)(a) The length limitations under this section do not apply to
19 vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of a
20 structural nature that cannot be dismembered and operated by a public
21 utility when required for emergency repair of public service
22 facilities or properties, but in respect to night transportation
23 every such vehicle and load thereon shall be equipped with a
24 sufficient number of clearance lamps on both sides and marker lamps
25 upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the
26 dimensions of the load.

27 (b) Excluded from the calculation of length under this section
28 are certain devices that provide added safety, energy conservation,
29 or are otherwise necessary, and are not designed or used to carry
30 cargo. The length-exclusive devices must be identified in rules
31 adopted by the department of transportation under RCW 46.44.101.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.037 and 2016 c 22 s 7 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 46.44.036 and subject to
35 such rules and regulations governing their operation as may be
36 adopted by the state department of transportation, operation of the
37 following combinations is lawful:

38 (1) A combination consisting of a truck tractor, a semitrailer,
39 and another semitrailer or a full trailer. In this combination a

1 converter gear used to convert a semitrailer into a full trailer
2 shall be considered to be a part of the full trailer and not a
3 separate vehicle. A converter gear being pulled without load and not
4 used to convert a semitrailer into a full trailer may be substituted
5 in lieu of a full trailer or a semitrailer in any lawful combination;

6 (2) A combination consisting of a truck tractor carrying a
7 freight compartment no longer than eight feet, a semitrailer, and
8 another semitrailer or full trailer that meets the legal length
9 requirement for a truck and trailer combination set forth in RCW
10 46.44.030;

11 (3) A motor home or travel trailer with a cargo extension,
12 provided that there are no trailers or secondary cargo extensions or
13 units attached to the cargo extension.

14 (4) Upon federal approval of a variance to the freeze of state
15 law imposed by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
16 of 1991, the state department of transportation must implement rules
17 to allow combinations of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor and
18 three trailing units to operate on designated public highways of the
19 state. The state department of transportation may also specify by
20 rule other operating conditions to ensure a safe and efficient
21 highway system.

22 (a) The state department of transportation must collect data to
23 describe the:

24 (i) Volumes of combinations of vehicles consisting of a truck
25 tractor with three trailing units and segments of the trucking
26 industry taking advantage of the variance; and

27 (ii) Impacts on highway safety, traffic movement, and the
28 environment.

29 (b) By January 1st of each year after federal approval, the state
30 department of transportation must submit a status and performance
31 report on the implementation of the variance.

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