HLS 24RS-1961 ENGROSSED

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 950

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BY REPRESENTATIVE WILDER

TRANSPORTATION: Provides relative to towing vehicle and axle weight limits

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 32:386(C), (D), (E), and (K), relative to vehicle weight limits:
3	to provide for an exception to vehicle weight and axle limits when a Louisiana
4	licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow; and to provide for related
5	matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 32:386(C), (D), (E), and (K) are hereby amended and reenacted to
8	read as follows:
9	§386. Weight
10	* * *
11	C. The total gross weight of any single axle attached to any vehicle and
12	equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires shall not exceed twenty thousand
13	pounds, except when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle
14	tow the weight limitation shall be twenty-two thousand pounds while operating on
15	any state-maintained highway except on the Interstate System.
16	D. The total gross weight of any tandem axle or tandem steering axle attached
17	to any vehicle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires shall not exceed
18	thirty-four thousand pounds, except when a Louisiana licensed towing company is
19	engaged in a vehicle tow the weight limitation shall be thirty-seven thousand pounds

while operating on any state-maintained highway except on the Interstate System.

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However on any vehicle carrying forest products in their natural state, the weight limitation shall be thirty-seven thousand pounds per tandem axle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires except on the Interstate system.

- E.(1) The total gross weight of any tridum axle attached to any vehicle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires shall not exceed forty-two thousand pounds, except when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow the weight limitation shall be forty-five thousand pounds while operating on any state-maintained highway except on the Interstate System.
- (2) The total gross weight of any quadrum axle attached to any vehicle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires shall not exceed fifty thousand pounds, except when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow the weight limitation shall be fifty-three thousand pounds while operating on any state-maintained highway except on the Interstate System.

* * *

K. Vehicles and combinations of vehicles shall be loaded in such manner that the axle limitations set forth in Subsections C, D, E, F, and G of this Section are not exceeded. However, while operating on any state-maintained highway, except the Interstate System, the provisions of Subsections C, D, E, F, and G of this Section shall not be deemed to have been violated unless the axle weight exceeds by more than two thousand pounds for Subsections C and F of this section Section. or Additionally, vehicles and combinations of vehicles shall not be deemed to violate this Section unless the axle weight exceeds by more than three thousand pounds for Subsections D, E, and G of this Section. This Subsection shall in no way be construed to allow the total gross weight in any vehicle or combination of vehicles to exceed the gross weight limits set forth in Subsection A or I of this Section. The weight limit provisions of this Subsection shall not be applicable for Subsection C of this Section when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 950 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Wilder

Abstract: Provides for an exception to vehicle and axle weight limits for Louisiana licensed towing companies engaged in a vehicle tow.

<u>Present law</u> provides the total gross weight of any single axle attached to any vehicle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires cannot exceed 20,000 pounds.

<u>Proposed law</u> excepts the provisions of <u>present law</u> (R.S. 32:386(C)) when a La. licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow, during which the weight limitation can be 22,000 pounds while on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.

<u>Present law</u> provides the total gross weight of any tandem axle attached to any vehicle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires cannot exceed 34,000 pounds.

<u>Proposed law</u> excepts the provisions of <u>present law</u> (R.S. 32:386(D)) when a La. licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow, during which the weight limitation can be 37,000 pounds while on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.

<u>Present law</u> provides the total gross weight of any tridum axle attached to any vehicle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires cannot exceed 42,000 pounds.

<u>Proposed law</u> excepts the provisions of <u>present law</u> (R.S. 32:386(E)(1)) when a La. licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow, during which the weight limitation can be 45,000 pounds while on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.

<u>Present law</u> provides the total gross weight of any quadrum axle attached to any vehicle and equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires cannot exceed 50,000 pounds.

<u>Proposed law</u> excepts the provisions of <u>present law</u> (R.S. 32:386(E)(2)) when a La. licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow, during which the weight limitation can be 53,000 pounds while on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.

<u>Present law</u> provides vehicles and combinations of vehicles must be loaded so that the axle limitations set forth in <u>present law</u> are not exceeded, except on state-maintained highways, excluding the Interstate System, when the axle weight exceeds by more than 2,000 pounds for <u>present law</u> (R.S. 32:386(C) and (F)) and 3,000 pounds for <u>present law</u> (R.S. 32:386(D), (E), and (G)).

<u>Proposed law</u> excepts the provisions of <u>present law</u> (R.S. 32:386(C)) when a La. licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow.

(Amends R.S. 32:386(C), (D), (E), and (K))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Transportation</u>, <u>Highways and Public Works</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

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- 1. Change provision <u>from</u> when a towing company is engaged in a consensual vehicle tow with the agreement of the owner from private property <u>to</u> when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow.
- 2. Add weight limitations to the exceptions in <u>proposed law</u> (22,000 pounds applicable to single axle vehicles) and provide that the exceptions are applicable on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.
- 3. Add additional provisions to allow for exceptions when a Louisiana licensed towing company is engaged in a vehicle tow, to provide weight limitations (37,000 pounds applicable to tandem axle vehicles; 45,000 pounds applicable to tridum axle vehicles; and 53,000 pounds applicable to quadrum axle vehicles), and to provide for applicability of the exceptions on state-maintained highways except for the Interstate System.
- 4. Make technical changes.