
HOUSE BILL 1897

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Doglio, Irwin, Lovick, Van Werven, and Walsh

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle combinations that may be operated on
2 public highways; and amending RCW 46.44.030 and 46.44.036.

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 (2) does not apply to
2 combinations of vehicles operating on highways designated by the
3 department of transportation as part of a pilot project authorized by
4 RCW 46.44.036(2). The total combination of vehicles under this
5 subsection (2)(b) may not exceed one hundred five feet of overall
6 length.

7 (c) The restriction under this subsection (2) does not apply to
8 two trailers or semitrailers with a total weight that does not exceed
9 twenty-six thousand pounds and when the two trailers or semitrailers
10 do not carry property but constitute inventory property of a
11 manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers. The total
12 combination under this subsection (2)(~~(b)~~) (c) may not exceed
13 eighty-two feet of overall length.

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

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

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

34 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.036 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 64 s 8 are each
35 amended to read as follows:

36 (1) Except as provided in RCW 46.44.037 and subsection (2) of
37 this section, it is unlawful for any person to operate upon the
38 public highways of this state any combination of vehicles consisting
39 of more than two vehicles. For the purposes of this section, a truck

1 tractor-semitrailer or pole trailer combination will be considered as
2 two vehicles but the addition of another axle to the tractor of a
3 truck tractor-semitrailer or pole trailer combination in such a way
4 that it supports a proportional share of the load of the semitrailer
5 or pole trailer shall not be deemed a separate vehicle but shall be
6 considered a part of the truck tractor. For the purposes of this
7 section, a converter gear used in converting a semitrailer to a full
8 trailer shall not be deemed a separate vehicle but shall be
9 considered a part of the trailer.

10 (2) Until June 30, 2024, the state department of transportation
11 must implement a pilot project to allow combinations of vehicles
12 consisting of no more than three vehicles to operate on designated
13 public highways of the state. The department of transportation may
14 also specify other operating conditions to ensure a safe and
15 efficient highway system.

16 (a) For the pilot project, the department of transportation must
17 collect data to describe the:

18 (i) Volumes of three vehicle combinations and segments of the
19 trucking industry taking advantage of the pilot project; and

20 (ii) Impacts on highway safety, traffic movement, and the
21 environment.

22 (b) By January 1st of each year through 2024, the department of
23 transportation must submit a status and performance report on the
24 implementation of the pilot project.

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