

LEGISLATIVE BILL 983

Approved by the Governor April 13, 1984

Introduced by Schmit, 23

AN ACT relating to rules of the road; to amend section 39-6,179, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1983; to provide for the operation of longer vehicles as prescribed; to provide a penalty; and to repeal the original section.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The Department of Roads may issue permits for the use of extra-long vehicle combinations. Such permits shall allow the extra-long vehicle combinations to operate only on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and only if such vehicles are empty and are being delivered for the manufacturer or retailer, except that a highway located not more than six miles from the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways may also be designated in such permits if it is determined by the Director-State Engineer that such designation is necessary for the permit holder to have access to the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. An annual permit for such use may be issued to each qualified carrier company or individual. The carrier company or individual shall maintain a copy of such annual permit in each truck-tractor operating as a part of an extra-long vehicle combination. The fee for such permit shall be two hundred fifty dollars per year.

(2) The permit in subsection (1) of this section shall allow operation of the following extra-long vehicle combinations of not more than three cargo units and not fewer than six axles nor more than nine axles:

(a) A truck-tractor, a semitrailer, and two trailers having an overall combination length of not more than one hundred five feet. Semitrailers and trailers shall be of approximately equal lengths;

(b) A truck-tractor, semitrailer, and single trailer having an overall length of not more than one hundred five feet. Semitrailers and trailers shall be of approximately equal lengths; and

(c) A truck-tractor, semitrailer, or single trailer, one trailer of which is not more than forty-eight feet long, the other trailer of which is not more than twenty-eight feet long nor less than twenty-six feet long, and the entire combination of which is not more than ninety-five feet long. The shorter trailer shall be operated as the rear trailer.

For purposes of this subsection, a semitrailer

used with a converter dolly shall be considered a trailer.

(3) The Department of Roads shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the issuance of the permits, including, but not limited to, selection of carriers, driver qualifications, equipment selection, hours of operations, weather conditions, road conditions, and safety considerations.

Sec. 2. Any person, business, firm, or corporation violating section 1 of this act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor.

Sec. 3. That section 39-6,179, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1983, be amended to read as follows:

39-6,179. (1)(a) No vehicle shall exceed a length of forty feet, extreme overall dimensions, inclusive of front and rear bumpers including load, except that (i) a bus may exceed the ~~forty feet~~ forty-foot limitation by up to but not to exceed six inches when such excess length is caused by the projection of a front or rear safety bumper constructed, treated, or manufactured so that it absorbs energy upon impact, (ii) a truck-tractor may exceed the ~~forty-foot~~ forty feet limitation, (iii) a semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor single semitrailer combination, which semitrailer was actually and lawfully operating in the State of Nebraska on December 1, 1982, may exceed the ~~forty-foot~~ forty feet limitation, and (iv) a semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor single semitrailer combination, which semitrailer was not actually and lawfully operating in the State of Nebraska on December 1, 1982, may exceed the ~~forty feet~~ forty-foot limitation but shall not exceed a length of fifty-three feet including load.

(b) No combination of vehicles shall exceed a length of sixty-five feet extreme overall dimensions inclusive of front and rear bumpers and including load, except (i) a truck-tractor single semitrailer combination and (ii) a truck-tractor semitrailer trailer combination, but the semitrailer trailer portion of such combination shall not exceed sixty-five feet inclusive of connective devices.

(c) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand pounds each when the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six, thirty-seven, or thirty-eight feet, except as provided in section 39-6,180.02. Such vehicles shall be subject to the provisions of section 39-6,185.

(d) A truck shall be construed to be one vehicle for the purpose of determining length.

(e) A trailer shall be construed to be one vehicle for the purpose of determining length.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to extra-long vehicles which have been issued a permit pursuant to section 1 of this act, to

the temporary moving of farm machinery during daylight hours in the normal course of farm operations, to the movement of unbaled livestock forage vehicles, loaded or unloaded, nor to the movement of public utility or other construction and maintenance material and equipment at any time, or to farm equipment dealers hauling, driving, delivering, or picking up farm equipment or implements of husbandry within the county in which the dealer maintains his or her place of business, or in any adjoining county or counties, and return, nor shall they apply to the overhang of any motor vehicle being hauled upon any lawful combination of vehicles, but such overhang shall not exceed the distance from the rear axle of the hauled motor vehicle to the closest bumper thereof nor shall they apply to any rubber-tired crane with a fixed load when (a) such vehicle will be transported on a state highway, excluding any portion of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, on a city street, or on a road within the corporate limits of a city, (b) the city in which the crane is intended to be transported has authorized a one-day permit for the transportation of the crane, specifying the route to be used and the hours during which the crane can be transported, except that no permit shall be issued by a city for travel on a state highway containing a bridge or structure which is structurally inadequate to carry the crane as determined by the Department of Roads, (c) such vehicle will be escorted by another vehicle or vehicles assigned by the city, (d) such vehicle's gross weight does not exceed eighty-five thousand pounds, if a four-axle crane, or sixty-seven thousand pounds, if a three-axle crane, and (e) if a four-axle crane, the maximum weight on each set of tandem axles does not exceed forty-two thousand five hundred pounds, or if a three-axle crane, the maximum weight on the front axle does not exceed twenty-five thousand pounds and the total maximum weight on the rear tandem axles does not exceed forty-two thousand five hundred pounds.

(3) The length limitations of this section shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices, such as rearview mirrors, turnsignal lamps, marker lamps, steps and handholds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mudflaps and splash and spray suppressant devices, load-induced tire bulge, refrigeration units or air compressors, and other devices necessary for safe and efficient operation of commercial motor vehicles, except that no device excluded from the limitations of this section shall have by its design or use the capability to carry cargo.

Sec. 4. That original section 39-6,179, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1983, is repealed.