

Increasing Certain Vehicle Combination Lengths, Weight Limits of Natural Gas Vehicles; Sub. for SB 99

Sub. for SB 99 increases vehicle length limits for stinger-steered automobile transporters and for certain combinations used to transport custom harvester equipment, and it increases certain weight limits for vehicles operated by engines fueled primarily by natural gas.

- The length limit for stinger-steered automobile transporters increases from 75 feet to 80 feet exclusive of front and rear overhang. Allowable overhang for those vehicles is increased from three to four feet beyond the front and from four to six feet beyond the rear of the transporter.
- The bill excludes from other length limits a combination of one truck-tractor and two trailers or one truck-tractor, semitrailer, and trailer used to transport equipment used by custom harvesters under contract to agricultural producers to harvest wheat, soybeans, or milo during the months of April through November. The overall length of the combination of vehicles cannot exceed 81.5 feet, excluding load. Former length limits applicable to custom harvesters were 65 or 75 feet (excluding overhang), depending on the combination of vehicles and the load.
- The bill allows a vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas to exceed the vehicle weight limits in a statute limiting axle weights by an amount equal to the difference between the weight attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system, up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 82,000 pounds.