

SENATE BILL NO. 205

INTRODUCED BY

Forester

Fuchs

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE LENGTH FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES; INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE WIDTH FOR REDUCIBLE LOADS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-10-104 AND 61-10-121, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 61-10-104, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-10-104. Length -- definitions. (1) A single truck, bus, or any self-propelled vehicle, unladen or with load, may not have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of ~~45~~ 55 feet.

(2) (a) When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer may not exceed 53 feet in length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer and trailer or the two semitrailers may not exceed 28 1/2 feet each in length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. Truck tractor-semitrailer, truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer, and truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combinations are not subject to a combination length limit.

(b) A stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter may not exceed 75 feet in length plus a maximum 3 feet of front overhang and 4 feet of rear overhang, except as provided by 61-10-124. "Stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter" means a truck tractor-semitrailer combination that has a fifth wheel on a drop frame located behind and below the rear axle of the truck tractor and that is designed and used for the transportation of vehicles or assembled boats or boat hulls.

(c) All other combinations of vehicles may not have a combination length in excess of 75 feet, except as provided by 61-10-124. If the combination consists of more than two units, the rear units of the combination must be equipped with breakaway brakes.

(3) A motor vehicle may not tow more than one motor vehicle, and a motor vehicle may not draw more than three motor vehicles attached to it by the triple saddle-mount method (that is, by mounting the front wheels of one vehicle on the bed of another, leaving only the rear wheels of the vehicle in contact

1 with the roadway), nor may this combination have a combination length in excess of 75 feet.

2 (4) A passenger vehicle or truck of less than 2,000 pounds "manufacturers' rated capacity" may
3 not tow more than one trailer or semitrailer, nor may this combination have a length in excess of 65 feet.

4 (5) (a) The length of a vehicle combination consisting of a truck or truck-tractor and one trailer,
5 pole trailer, or semitrailer hauling raw logs may not exceed 75 feet in overall length. As used in this
6 subsection (a), the term "length" means the total length of the vehicle combination beginning at the front
7 of the front bumper of the truck or truck-tractor and extending to the most distant end of the logs being
8 hauled. A term permit for an overlength vehicle combination, as provided in 61-10-124(3), does not apply
9 to the vehicle combination described in this subsection (a). A vehicle combination exceeding 75 feet must
10 have a trip permit.

11 (b) The maximum overhang of any log may not exceed 15 feet, except by special, single-trip
12 permit. Overhang is measured from the center of the rear-most axle to the most distant end of the logs
13 being hauled.

14 (c) The provisions in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) do not apply to a vehicle combination hauling
15 utility poles.

16 (6) As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

17 (a) "Combination length" means the total length of a combination of vehicles, such as a truck
18 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, measured from the front bumper of the motor vehicle to the back
19 bumper or rear extremity of the last trailer, including the connection tongues.

20 (b) "Combined trailer length" means the total length of a combination of trailers measured from the
21 front of the first trailer to the back of the last trailer, including the connection tongues and loads.

22 (c) "Length", except as provided in subsection (5)(a), means the total longitudinal dimension of a
23 single vehicle, a trailer, or a semitrailer. The length of a trailer or semitrailer is measured from the front of
24 the cargo-carrying unit to its rear, exclusive of safety or energy efficiency devices, air-conditioning units,
25 air compressors, flexible fender extensions, splash and spray suppressant devices, bolsters, mechanical
26 fastening devices, and hydraulic lift gates.

27 (d) "Rocky Mountain double" means a combination of vehicles that includes a truck tractor pulling
28 a long semitrailer and a shorter trailer."

29

30 **Section 2.** Section 61-10-121, MCA, is amended to read:

1 **"61-10-121. Permits for excess size and weight.** (1) Upon application and with good cause shown,
2 the department of transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may issue
3 telephonically or in writing a special permit authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle,
4 combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing of a size or weight exceeding the maximum specified
5 in 61-10-101 through 61-10-110 upon a highway under the jurisdiction of and for the maintenance of
6 which the body granting the permit is responsible. However, only the department may issue permits for
7 movement of a vehicle or combination of vehicles carrying built-up or reducible loads in excess of ~~9~~ 10 feet
8 in width or exceeding the length, height, or weight specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-110. This permit
9 must be issued in the public interest. A carrier receiving this permit must have public liability and property
10 damage insurance for the protection of the traveling public as a whole. A permit may not be issued for a
11 period greater than the period for which the GVW license is valid, including grace periods, as provided in
12 this title. Owners of vehicles licensed in other jurisdictions may, at the discretion of the department,
13 purchase permits to expire with their registration. A license required by the state governs the issuance of
14 a special permit. The department may issue to dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled
15 machinery oversize permits, which may be transferred from unit to unit by the dealer, for the fee set forth
16 in 61-10-124. These oversize permits may not restrict dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled
17 machinery from traveling on a Saturday or Sunday and expire on December 31 of each year, with no grace
18 period. For the purposes of this section, a dealer in implements of husbandry or self-propelled machinery
19 must be a resident of the state. A post-office box number is not a permanent address under this section.

20 (2) The applicant for a special permit shall specifically describe the powered vehicle or towing
21 vehicle and generally describe the type of vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing to
22 be operated or moved and the particular state highways over which the vehicle, combination of vehicles,
23 load, object, or other thing is to be moved and whether the permit is required for a single trip or for
24 continuous operation."

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APPROVED BY COM ON
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 205

INTRODUCED BY FORRESTER, FUCHS

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"61-10-104. Length -- definitions. (1) A single truck, bus, or any self-propelled vehicle, unladen or with load, may not have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of ~~46~~ 55 feet.

(2) (a) When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer may not exceed 53 feet in length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer and trailer or the two semitrailers may not exceed 28 1/2 feet each in length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. Truck tractor-semitrailer, truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer, and truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combinations are not subject to a combination length limit.

(b) A stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter may not exceed 75 feet in length plus a maximum 3 feet of front overhang and 4 feet of rear overhang, except as provided by 61-10-124. "Stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter" means a truck tractor-semitrailer combination that has a fifth wheel on a drop frame located behind and below the rear axle of the truck tractor and that is designed and used for the transportation of vehicles or assembled boats or boat hulls.

(c) All other combinations of vehicles may not have a combination length in excess of 75 feet, except as provided by 61-10-124. If the combination consists of more than two units, the rear units of the combination must be equipped with breakaway brakes.

(3) A motor vehicle may not tow more than one motor vehicle, and a motor vehicle may not draw more than three motor vehicles attached to it by the triple saddle-mount method (that is, by mounting the front wheels of one vehicle on the bed of another, leaving only the rear wheels of the vehicle in contact

1 with the roadway), nor may this combination have a combination length in excess of 75 feet.

2 (4) A passenger vehicle or truck of less than 2,000 pounds "manufacturers' rated capacity" may
3 not tow more than one trailer or semitrailer, nor may this combination have a length in excess of 65 feet.

4 (5) (a) The length of a vehicle combination consisting of a truck or truck-tractor and one trailer,
5 pole trailer, or semitrailer hauling raw logs may not exceed 75 feet in overall length. As used in this
6 subsection (a), the term "length" means the total length of the vehicle combination beginning at the front
7 of the front bumper of the truck or truck-tractor and extending to the most distant end of the logs being
8 hauled. A term permit for an overlength vehicle combination, as provided in 61-10-124(3), does not apply
9 to the vehicle combination described in this subsection (a). A vehicle combination exceeding 75 feet must
10 have a trip permit.

11 (b) The maximum overhang of any log may not exceed 15 feet, except by special, single-trip
12 permit. Overhang is measured from the center of the rear-most axle to the most distant end of the logs
13 being hauled.

14 (c) The provisions in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) do not apply to a vehicle combination hauling
15 utility poles.

16 (6) As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

17 (a) "Combination length" means the total length of a combination of vehicles, such as a truck
18 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, measured from the front bumper of the motor vehicle to the back
19 bumper or rear extremity of the last trailer, including the connection tongues.

20 (b) "Combined trailer length" means the total length of a combination of trailers measured from the
21 front of the first trailer to the back of the last trailer, including the connection tongues and loads.

22 (c) "Length", except as provided in subsection (5)(a), means the total longitudinal dimension of a
23 single vehicle, a trailer, or a semitrailer. The length of a trailer or semitrailer is measured from the front of
24 the cargo-carrying unit to its rear, exclusive of safety or energy efficiency devices, air-conditioning units,
25 air compressors, flexible fender extensions, splash and spray suppressant devices, bolsters, mechanical
26 fastening devices, and hydraulic lift gates.

27 (d) "Rocky Mountain double" means a combination of vehicles that includes a truck tractor pulling
28 a long semitrailer and a shorter trailer."

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30 ~~Section 2. Section 61-10-121, MCA, is amended to read:~~

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5 ~~in 61-10-101 through 61-10-110 upon a highway under the jurisdiction of and for the maintenance of~~
6 ~~which the body granting the permit is responsible. However, only the department may issue permits for~~
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19 ~~must be a resident of the state. A post office box number is not a permanent address under this section.~~

20 ~~(2) The applicant for a special permit shall specifically describe the powered vehicle or towing~~
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-END-

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19 combination length limit.

20 (b) A stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter may not exceed 75 feet in length plus a
21 maximum 3 feet of front overhang and 4 feet of rear overhang, except as provided by 61-10-124.
22 "Stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter" means a truck tractor-semitrailer combination that has a
23 fifth wheel on a drop frame located behind and below the rear axle of the truck tractor and that is designed
24 and used for the transportation of vehicles or assembled boats or boat hulls.

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28 (3) A motor vehicle may not tow more than one motor vehicle, and a motor vehicle may not draw
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