

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This agency bill makes a variety of changes related to vehicle size and weight limits and regulation of motor carriers.

Section

Article 1: Vehicle Weights and Dimensions

Overview

Modifies and clarifies various motor vehicle size and weight provisions.

- 1 Height and width.** Eliminates transportation of certain larger implements of husbandry from a provision on ensuring that the implements do not damage bridges and infrastructure located next to the road.
- 2 Brakes.** Amends the situations where a towed implement of husbandry must have brakes that can automatically stop it if it becomes detached from the towing vehicle, to require such “brakeaway” brakes on all towed implements of husbandry that require brakes and weigh over 6,000 pounds.
- 3 Length of vehicle combinations.** Establishes a maximum length of 97 feet for saddlemount combinations operated under certain conditions. A saddlemount combination is a series of truck-tractors where one truck-tractor tows the rest in the series, and each towed truck-tractor is mounted on the truck-tractor ahead of it in the series.
- 4 Table of axle weight limits.** Clarifies the axle weight limits for groups of three axles spaced seven or eight feet apart, so that the axle weight limits table contains the usual limits and additional language outlines the exceptions. Currently, the exceptions are built into the table. Makes technical changes.

- 5 **Gross vehicle weight of all axles; credit for idle reduction technology.** Makes conforming changes, to update a cross-reference.
- 6 **Conditions.** Amends a special permit for hauling unfinished forest products, to allow the vehicle to have six or more axles (instead of only allowing it to have six axles).
- 7 **Fee; proceeds deposited; appropriation.** Eliminates a \$24 annual permit for transporting implements of husbandry under certain conditions, and modifies a \$120 annual permit to be available for all implements of husbandry transport. Allows a \$120 annual permit to be issued for exceeding the 55 feet length limit on a segment of Trunk Highway 36 running west from the Stillwater Lift Bridge. Amends an alternative permit fee based on gross vehicle weight, to clarify that is able to be used for mobile cranes, implements of husbandry, and hauling boats commercially.
- 8 **Additional restrictions.** Broadens an exemption from a required permit when transporting hay under certain conditions, so that the exemption applies to straw and cornstalks as well as all types of hay bales.
- 9 **Special permit violations.** Clarifies the calculation of the fine when a civil penalty is imposed for violations of the weight limit under a special permit, so that the fine is based on the amount of weight in excess of what is allowed under the permit or allowed under the winter weight increase, instead of being based on the weight in excess of regular weight limits. Makes technical changes.
- 10 **Special vehicle.** Amends a special permit for hauling pole-length wood, to allow the vehicle to have six or more axles (instead of only allowing it to have six axles).
- 11 **Special two-unit vehicle permit.** Establishes that a special permit for paper products along certain routes for two-unit combinations requires at least six axles, and allows a vehicle to have a maximum gross vehicle weight of 97,000 pounds if it has seven or more axles (instead of only allowing it to have seven axles). Clarifies that the weight limit and permit applies to entire vehicle combination.
- 12 **Permit fee; appropriation.** Adjusts the fee for special permits for hauling paper products along certain routes, to be \$300 for a vehicle with a gross weight of up to 90,000 pounds, and \$500 for vehicles of up to 97,000 pounds.
- 13 **Six-axle vehicles.** Makes a technical change, to fix a cross-reference.
- 14 **Civil liability.** Makes technical changes, to update cross-references.
- 15 **Special permit violations.** Amends the calculation of fines for violations of weight limits under the civil penalty provision, to base it on weights in excess of that allowed by the permit (instead of based on weights in excess of general weight limits). Makes technical changes.
- 16 **Civil penalty for first two violations.** Makes technical changes, to update cross-references.
- 17 **Exemptions.** Eliminates an exemption from commercial vehicle regulations for commercially transporting people or property entirely within cities, or between contiguous

cities.

18 **Vehicle over 10,000 pounds not exempt.** Makes technical changes, to update cross-references.

19 **Repealer.**

(a) Eliminates an unused provision that authorizes MnDOT to extend winter weight increases by permit.

(b) Repeals various administrative rules governing (1) permits no longer issued or administered by MnDOT, (2) regulation of household goods movers no longer applicable under recent changes to state law, and (3) various motor carrier regulations that are out of date or conflict with state or federal law.

Article 2: Cross-References

Overview

All of the sections in this article update cross-references so that they cover only those provisions in which weight and dimensional limits are imposed.