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**SENATE BILL 5360**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senator MacEwen

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle combinations that may be operated on  
2 public highways; and amending RCW 46.44.030 and 46.44.037.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.030 and 2020 c 110 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~~) 40 feet. This restriction does  
9 not apply to (a) a municipal transit vehicle, (b) auto stage, private  
10 carrier bus, school bus, travel trailer, or motor home with an  
11 overall length not to exceed (~~forty-six~~) 46 feet, (c) an  
12 articulated auto stage with an overall length not to exceed (~~sixty-~~  
13 ~~one~~) 61 feet, excluding a bike rack up to four feet in length, or  
14 (d) an auto recycling carrier up to (~~forty-two~~) 42 feet in length  
15 manufactured prior to 2005.

16 (2)(a) It is unlawful for any person to operate upon the public  
17 highways of this state any combination consisting of a tractor and  
18 semitrailer that has a semitrailer length in excess of (~~fifty-~~  
19 ~~three~~) 53 feet or a combination consisting of a tractor and two  
20 trailers in which the combined length of the trailers exceeds  
21 (~~sixty-one~~) 61 feet, with or without load.

1 (b) The restriction under this subsection does not apply to two  
2 trailers or semitrailers with a total weight that does not exceed  
3 (~~twenty-six thousand~~) 26,000 pounds and when the two trailers or  
4 semitrailers do not carry property but constitute inventory property  
5 of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers. The total  
6 combination under this subsection (2)(b) may not exceed (~~eighty-~~  
7 ~~two~~) 82 feet of overall length.

8 (c) The restriction under this subsection does not apply to  
9 combinations of commercial vehicles operating on highways federally  
10 approved and designated by the state department of transportation as  
11 authorized by RCW 46.44.037(4).

12 (3) It is unlawful for any person to operate on the highways of  
13 this state any combination consisting of a truck and trailer, or log  
14 truck and stinger-steered pole trailer, with an overall length, with  
15 or without load, in excess of (~~seventy-five~~) 75 feet. "Stinger-  
16 steered," as used in this section, means the coupling device is  
17 located behind the tread of the tires of the last axle of the towing  
18 vehicle.

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

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

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.037 and 2016 c 22 s 7 are each amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 46.44.036 and subject to  
36 such rules and regulations governing their operation as may be  
37 adopted by the state department of transportation, operation of the  
38 following combinations is lawful:

1 (1) A combination consisting of a truck tractor, a semitrailer,  
2 and another semitrailer or a full trailer. In this combination a  
3 converter gear used to convert a semitrailer into a full trailer  
4 shall be considered to be a part of the full trailer and not a  
5 separate vehicle. A converter gear being pulled without load and not  
6 used to convert a semitrailer into a full trailer may be substituted  
7 in lieu of a full trailer or a semitrailer in any lawful combination;

8 (2) A combination consisting of a truck tractor carrying a  
9 freight compartment no longer than eight feet, a semitrailer, and  
10 another semitrailer or full trailer that meets the legal length  
11 requirement for a truck and trailer combination set forth in RCW  
12 46.44.030;

13 (3) A motor home or travel trailer with a cargo extension,  
14 provided that there are no trailers or secondary cargo extensions or  
15 units attached to the cargo extension.

16 (4) Upon federal approval of a variance to the freeze of state  
17 law imposed by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act  
18 of 1991, the state department of transportation must implement rules  
19 to allow combinations of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor and  
20 three trailing units to operate on designated public highways of the  
21 state. The state department of transportation may also specify by  
22 rule other operating conditions to ensure a safe and efficient  
23 highway system.

24 (a) The state department of transportation must collect data to  
25 describe the:

26 (i) Volumes of combinations of vehicles consisting of a truck  
27 tractor with three trailing units and segments of the trucking  
28 industry taking advantage of the variance; and

29 (ii) Impacts on highway safety, traffic movement, and the  
30 environment.

31 (b) By January 1st of each year after federal approval, the state  
32 department of transportation must submit a status and performance  
33 report on the implementation of the variance.

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