

1-1 By: Seliger S.B. No. 1815
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; March 26, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
 1-4 April 23, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 23, 2021,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1815 By: Seliger

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to motor vehicle size and weight limitations.
 1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-23 SECTION 1. Chapter 622, Transportation Code, is amended by
 1-24 adding Subchapter K to read as follows:
 1-25 SUBCHAPTER K. AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTERS
 1-26 Sec. 622.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:
 1-27 (1) "Automobile transporter" has the meaning assigned
 1-28 by 49 U.S.C. Section 31111.
 1-29 (2) "Backhaul" means the return trip of a vehicle
 1-30 transporting cargo or general freight.
 1-31 (3) "Stinger-steered" means a truck-tractor and
 1-32 semitrailer combination in which the fifth wheel is located on a
 1-33 drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the
 1-34 truck-tractor.
 1-35 Sec. 622.152. AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTER BACKHAULS. (a) An
 1-36 automobile transporter that complies with the weight and size
 1-37 limitations for a truck-tractor and semitrailer combination under
 1-38 this subtitle may transport cargo or general freight on a backhaul.
 1-39 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a), an automobile
 1-40 transporter is presumed to be on a backhaul if the automobile
 1-41 transporter is transporting cargo or general freight back over all
 1-42 or part of the same route.
 1-43 Sec. 622.153. MAXIMUM EXTENDED LENGTH OF LOAD.
 1-44 Notwithstanding Section 621.206, an automobile transporter that is
 1-45 stinger-steered may carry a load that extends not more than:
 1-46 (1) four feet beyond its front; and
 1-47 (2) six feet beyond its rear.
 1-48 SECTION 2. Section 622.902, Transportation Code, is amended
 1-49 to read as follows:
 1-50 Sec. 622.902. LENGTH EXCEPTIONS. The length limitations
 1-51 provided by Sections 621.203 to 621.205 do not apply to:
 1-52 (1) machinery used exclusively for drilling water
 1-53 wells, including machinery that is itself a unit or that is a unit
 1-54 mounted on a conventional vehicle or chassis;
 1-55 (2) a vehicle owned or operated by a public, private,
 1-56 or volunteer fire department;
 1-57 (3) a vehicle or combination of vehicles operated
 1-58 exclusively in the territory of a municipality or to a combination
 1-59 of vehicles operated by a municipality in a suburb adjoining the
 1-60 municipality in which the municipality has been using the equipment

2-1 or similar equipment in connection with an established service to
2-2 the suburb;

2-3 (4) a truck-tractor, truck-tractor combination, or
2-4 truck-trailer combination exclusively transporting machinery,
2-5 materials, and equipment used in the construction, operation, and
2-6 maintenance of facilities, including pipelines, that are used for
2-7 the discovery, production, and processing of natural gas or
2-8 petroleum;

2-9 (5) a drive-away saddlemount vehicle transporter
2-10 combination or a drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle
2-11 transporter combination, as defined by 23 C.F.R. Part 658 or its
2-12 successor, if:

2-13 (A) the overall length of the combination is not
2-14 longer than 97 feet; and

2-15 (B) the combination does not have more than three
2-16 saddlemounted vehicles if the combination does not include more
2-17 than one fullmount vehicle;

2-18 (6) the combination of a tow truck and another vehicle
2-19 or vehicle combination if:

2-20 (A) the other vehicle or vehicle combination
2-21 cannot be normally or safely driven or was abandoned on a highway;
2-22 and

2-23 (B) the tow truck is towing the other vehicle or
2-24 vehicle combination directly to the nearest authorized place of
2-25 repair, terminal, or destination of unloading;

2-26 (7) a vehicle or combination of vehicles used to
2-27 transport a harvest machine that is used in farm custom harvesting
2-28 operations on a farm if the overall length of the vehicle or
2-29 combination is not longer than:

2-30 (A) 75 feet if the vehicle is traveling on a
2-31 highway that is part of the national system of interstate and
2-32 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system; or

2-33 (B) 81-1/2 feet if the vehicle is not traveling
2-34 on a highway that is part of the national system of interstate and
2-35 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system; ~~or~~

2-36 (8) a truck-tractor operated in combination with a
2-37 semitrailer and trailer or semitrailer and semitrailer if:

2-38 (A) the combination is used to transport a
2-39 harvest machine that is used in farm custom harvesting operations
2-40 on a farm;

2-41 (B) the overall length of the combination,
2-42 excluding the length of the truck-tractor, is not longer than
2-43 81-1/2 feet; and

2-44 (C) the combination is traveling on a highway
2-45 that:

2-46 (i) is not part of the national system of
2-47 interstate and defense highways or the federal aid primary highway
2-48 system; and

2-49 (ii) is located in a county with a
2-50 population of less than 300,000; or

2-51 (9) a towaway trailer transporter combination, as
2-52 defined by 49 U.S.C. Section 31111, if the overall length of the
2-53 combination is not longer than 82 feet.

2-54 SECTION 3. Section 622.952, Transportation Code, is amended
2-55 to read as follows:

2-56 Sec. 622.952. EMERGENCY [~~FIRE DEPARTMENT~~] VEHICLE. (a)
2-57 The weight limitations of Section 621.101 do not apply to an
2-58 emergency [~~a~~] vehicle [~~owned or operated by a public, private, or~~
2-59 ~~volunteer fire department~~].

2-60 (b) The weight of an emergency [~~a fire department's~~] vehicle
2-61 may not exceed the greater of:

2-62 (1) [~~be heavier than~~] the manufacturer's gross vehicle
2-63 weight capacity or axle design rating; or

2-64 (2) including all enforcement tolerances, a:

2-65 (A) gross weight of 86,000 pounds;

2-66 (B) single steering axle weight of 24,000 pounds;

2-67 (C) single drive axle weight of 33,500 pounds;

2-68 (D) tandem axle weight of 62,000 pounds; or

2-69 (E) tandem rear drive steer axle weight of 52,000

3-1 pounds.

3-2 (c) In this section, "emergency vehicle" means a vehicle
3-3 designed to be used under emergency conditions:

3-4 (1) to transport personnel and equipment; and

3-5 (2) to support the suppression of fires and mitigation
3-6 of other hazardous situations.

3-7 SECTION 4. Section 622.955(c), Transportation Code, is
3-8 amended to read as follows:

3-9 (c) The weight increase under Subsection (b) may not be
3-10 greater than 550 [400] pounds.

3-11 SECTION 5. Sections 623.071(a), (c), and (c-1),
3-12 Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

3-13 (a) The department may issue a permit to allow the operation
3-14 on [a person to operate over] a state highway of [superheavy or
3-15 oversize] equipment that exceeds the weight and size limits
3-16 provided by law for the movement of equipment[+]

3-17 [(-) is used to transport cylindrically shaped bales of
3-18 hay] or a commodity that cannot reasonably be dismantled[+, and

3-19 [(-) has a gross weight or size that exceeds the limits
3-20 allowed by law to be transported over a state highway].

3-21 (c) The department may issue an annual permit to allow the
3-22 operation on a state highway of equipment that exceeds weight and
3-23 size limits provided by law for the movement of:

3-24 (1) an implement of husbandry by a dealer;

3-25 (2) water well drilling machinery and equipment or
3-26 harvesting equipment being moved as part of an agricultural
3-27 operation; or

3-28 (3) [superheavy or oversize] equipment or a commodity
3-29 that:

3-30 (A) cannot reasonably be dismantled; and

3-31 (B) does not exceed:

3-32 (i) 12 feet in width;

3-33 (ii) 14 feet in height;

3-34 (iii) 110 feet in length; or

3-35 (iv) 120,000 pounds gross weight.

3-36 (c-1) The department may issue an annual permit that allows
3-37 a person to operate over a state highway or road a vehicle or
3-38 combination of vehicles transporting a load that cannot reasonably
3-39 be dismantled that exceeds the length and height limits provided by
3-40 law, except that:

3-41 (1) the maximum length allowed may not exceed 110
3-42 feet; and

3-43 (2) the maximum height allowed may not exceed 14 feet.

3-44 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act applies only
3-45 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.
3-46 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is
3-47 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
3-48 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
3-49 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the
3-50 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred
3-51 before that date.

3-52 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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