

By: Burrows

H.B. No. 4986

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to size limitations for certain vehicles transporting agricultural products and equipment.

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

SECTION 1. Section 504.505(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall issue specialty license plates for a single motor vehicle that is:

(1) used only to transport chile pepper modules, seed cotton, cotton, cotton burrs, hay, or equipment used in transporting or processing chile peppers, ~~or~~ cotton, or hay; and

(2) not more than 10 feet in width.

SECTION 2. Section 622.101, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a [A] single motor vehicle or truck-tractor operated in combination with a semitrailer and trailer or semitrailer and semitrailer used exclusively to transport chile pepper modules, seed cotton, cotton, cotton burrs, hay, or equipment used to transport or process chile pepper modules, ~~or~~ cotton, or hay, including a motor vehicle or burr spreader, may not be operated on a highway or road if the vehicle is:

(1) wider than 10 feet and the highway has not been

1 designated by the commission under Section [621.202](#);

2 (2) longer than 48 feet, if the vehicle is a single
3 motor vehicle; or

4 (3) higher than 14 feet 6 inches, if the vehicle is a
5 single motor vehicle.

6 (d) Subsection (a) does not apply to a vehicle transporting
7 cylindrical bales of hay under a permit issued under Section
8 [623.017](#).

9 SECTION 3. Section [622.902](#), Transportation Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 622.902. LENGTH EXCEPTIONS. The length limitations
12 provided by Sections [621.203](#) to 621.205 do not apply to:

13 (1) machinery used exclusively for drilling water
14 wells, including machinery that is itself a unit or that is a unit
15 mounted on a conventional vehicle or chassis;

16 (2) a vehicle owned or operated by a public, private,
17 or volunteer fire department;

18 (3) a vehicle or combination of vehicles operated
19 exclusively in the territory of a municipality or to a combination
20 of vehicles operated by a municipality in a suburb adjoining the
21 municipality in which the municipality has been using the equipment
22 or similar equipment in connection with an established service to
23 the suburb;

24 (4) a truck-tractor, truck-tractor combination, or
25 truck-trailer combination exclusively transporting machinery,
26 materials, and equipment used in the construction, operation, and
27 maintenance of facilities, including pipelines, that are used for

1 the discovery, production, and processing of natural gas or
2 petroleum;

3 (5) a drive-away saddlemount vehicle transporter
4 combination or a drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle
5 transporter combination, as defined by 23 C.F.R. Part 658 or its
6 successor, if:

7 (A) the overall length of the combination is not
8 longer than 97 feet; and

9 (B) the combination does not have more than three
10 saddlemounted vehicles if the combination does not include more
11 than one fullmount vehicle;

12 (6) the combination of a tow truck and another vehicle
13 or vehicle combination if:

14 (A) the other vehicle or vehicle combination
15 cannot be normally or safely driven or was abandoned on a highway;
16 and

17 (B) the tow truck is towing the other vehicle or
18 vehicle combination directly to the nearest authorized place of
19 repair, terminal, or destination of unloading;

20 (7) a vehicle or combination of vehicles used to
21 transport a harvest machine that is used in farm custom harvesting
22 operations on a farm if the overall length of the vehicle or
23 combination is not longer than:

24 (A) 75 feet if the vehicle is traveling on a
25 highway that is part of the national system of interstate and
26 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system; or

27 (B) 81-1/2 feet if the vehicle is not traveling

1 on a highway that is part of the national system of interstate and
2 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system;

3 (8) a truck-tractor operated in combination with a
4 semitrailer and trailer or semitrailer and semitrailer if:

5 (A) the combination is used to transport a
6 harvest machine that is used in farm custom harvesting operations
7 on a farm;

8 (B) the overall length of the combination,
9 excluding the length of the truck-tractor, is not longer than
10 81-1/2 feet; and

11 (C) the combination is traveling on a highway
12 that:

13 (i) is not part of the national system of
14 interstate and defense highways or the federal aid primary highway
15 system; and

16 (ii) is located in a county with a
17 population of less than 300,000; [~~or~~]

18 (9) a truck-tractor operated in combination with a
19 semitrailer and trailer or semitrailer and semitrailer if:

20 (A) the combination is used to transport chile
21 pepper modules, seed cotton, cotton, cotton burrs, hay, or
22 equipment used to transport or process chile pepper modules,
23 cotton, or hay, including a motor vehicle or burr spreader; and

24 (B) the overall length of the combination is not
25 longer than:

26 (i) 75 feet if the combination is traveling
27 on a highway that is part of the national system of interstate and

1 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system; or
2 (ii) 81-1/2 feet if the combination is not
3 traveling on a highway that is part of the national system of
4 interstate and defense highways or the federal aid primary highway
5 system; or

6 (10) a towaway trailer transporter combination, as
7 defined by 49 U.S.C. Section 31111, if the overall length of the
8 combination is not longer than 82 feet.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.