By:  White                                                  H.B. No. 777

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1                             AN ACT

2    relating to oversize or overweight vehicles transporting timber or

3    timber products.

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

5        SECTION 1.  Section 622.041, Transportation Code, is amended

6    to read as follows:

7        Sec. 622.041.  WEIGHT AND LENGTH LIMITATION.  (a)  A person

8    may operate over a highway or road of this state a vehicle or

9    combination  of  vehicles  that  is  being  used  to  transport

10   [exclusively for transporting poles, piling, or] unrefined timber,

11   wood chips, or woody biomass [from the point of origin of the timber

12   (the forest where the timber is felled) to a wood processing mill]

13   if:

14            (1)  the vehicle, or combination of vehicles, is not

15   longer than 90 feet, including the load; [and]

16            (2)  the  distance  from  the  point  of  origin  to  the

17   destination or delivery point does not exceed 125 miles; and

18            (3)  when the maximum allowable gross weight authorized

19   by  a  permit  issued  under  Section  623.011  for  the  vehicle  or

20   combination of vehicles is:

21                (A)  not exceeded, the gross load carried on any

22   tandem axle of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not

23   exceed 44,000 pounds; or

24                (B)  exceeded,  the  vehicle  or  combination  of

1   vehicles complies with the requirements of Section 621.101(b).

2      (b) Section 621.508 does not apply to a vehicle or

3   combination of vehicles operated under this section. [Subsection

4   (a)(1) does not apply to a truck-tractor or truck-tractor

5   combination transporting poles, piling, or unrefined timber.]

6      SECTION 2.  Section 622.043, Transportation Code, is amended

7   to read as follows:

8      Sec. 622.043.  CONFORMITY WITH GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING

9   TO VEHICLE SIZE AND WEIGHT.  Except as otherwise provided by this

10   subchapter, the [The] width, height, and gross weight of a vehicle

11   or combination of vehicles subject to this subchapter shall conform

12   to Chapter 621.

13      SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.