

Suspending limitations on conference committee
jurisdiction, H.B. No. 2741

By: Nichols

S.R. No. 1090

SENATE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, That Senate Rule 12.03 be suspended in part as provided by Senate Rule 12.08 to enable the conference committee appointed to resolve the differences on House Bill 2741 (the regulation of motor vehicles by counties and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles; authorizing a fee; creating an offense) to consider and take action on the following matters:

(1) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to add text on a matter not included in either the house or senate version of the bill by adding proposed SECTION 104 to the bill, amending Section 622.012(b), Transportation Code, to read as follows:

SECTION 104. Section 622.012(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A truck may be operated at a weight that exceeds the maximum single axle or tandem axle weight limitation by not more than 10 percent if the gross weight is not heavier than 69,000 pounds and the department has issued a permit that authorizes the operation of the vehicle under Section 623.0171.

Explanation: The addition of text is necessary to require ready-mixed concrete trucks with three axles to be permitted to operate at certain weight.

(2) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the

committee to add text on a matter not included in either the house or senate version of the bill by adding proposed SECTION 108 to the bill, amending Sections 623.012(a) and (b), Transportation Code, to read as follows:

SECTION 108. Sections 623.012(a) and (b), Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) An applicant for a permit under Section 623.011, other than a permit under that section to operate a vehicle loaded with timber or pulp wood, wood chips, cotton, or agricultural products in their natural state, and an applicant for a permit under Section 623.321 shall file with the department:

(1) a blanket bond; or

(2) an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a financial institution the deposits of which are guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(b) The bond or letter of credit must:

(1) be in the amount of \$15,000 payable to the Texas Department of Transportation and the counties of this state;

(2) be conditioned that the applicant will pay the Texas Department of Transportation for any damage to a state highway, and a county for any damage to a road or bridge of the county, caused by the operation of the vehicle:

(A) for which the permit is issued at a heavier weight than the maximum weights authorized by Subchapter B of Chapter 621 or Section 621.301 or 623.321; or

(B) that is in violation of Section 623.323;

and

(3) provide that the issuer is to notify the Texas Department of Transportation and the applicant in writing promptly after a payment is made by the issuer on the bond or letter of credit.

Explanation: The addition of text is necessary to require a person to file a bond or letter of credit to obtain a permit to operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles to transport unrefined timber, wood chips, or woody biomass in certain counties.

(3) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to add text on a matter not included in either the house or senate version of the bill by adding proposed SECTION 110 to the bill, adding Section 623.0171, Transportation Code, to read as follows:

SECTION 110. Subchapter B, Chapter 623, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 623.0171 to read as follows:

Sec. 623.0171. PERMIT FOR READY-MIXED CONCRETE TRUCKS.

(a) In this section, "ready-mixed concrete truck" has the meaning assigned by Section 622.011.

(b) The department may issue a permit that authorizes the operation of a ready-mixed concrete truck with three axles.

(c) To qualify for a permit under this section, a base permit fee of \$1,000 must be paid, except as provided by Subsection (g).

(d) A permit issued under this section:

(1) is valid for one year, except as provided by

Subsection (g); and

(2) must be carried in the vehicle for which it is issued.

(e) When the department issues a permit under this section, the department shall issue a sticker to be placed on the front windshield of the vehicle above the inspection certificate issued to the vehicle. The department shall design the form of the sticker to aid in the enforcement of weight limits for vehicles.

(f) The sticker must:

(1) indicate the expiration date of the permit; and

(2) be removed from the vehicle when:

(A) the permit for operation of the vehicle expires;

(B) a lease of the vehicle expires; or

(C) the vehicle is sold.

(g) The department may issue a permit under this section that is valid for a period of less than one year. The department shall prorate the applicable fee required by Subsection (c) for a permit issued under this subsection as necessary to reflect the term of the permit.

(h) Unless otherwise provided by state or federal law, a county or municipality may not require a permit, fee, or license for the operation of a ready-mixed concrete truck in addition to a permit, fee, or license required by state law.

(i) Section 622.015 does not apply to an owner of a ready-mixed concrete truck who holds a permit under this section

for the truck.

(j) Unless otherwise provided by state or federal law, a ready-mixed concrete truck may operate on a state, county, or municipal road, including a load-zoned county road or a frontage road adjacent to a federal interstate highway, if the truck displays a sticker required by Subsection (e) and does not exceed the maximum gross weight authorized under Section 622.012.

(k) For the purposes of Subsection (l), the department by rule shall require an applicant to designate in the permit application the counties in which the applicant intends to operate.

(1) Of the fee collected under this section for a permit:

(1) 50 percent of the amount collected shall be deposited to the credit of the state highway fund; and

(2) the other 50 percent shall be divided among and distributed to the counties designated in permit applications under Subsection (k) according to department rule.

(m) At least once each fiscal year, the comptroller shall send the amount due each county under Subsection (l) to the county treasurer or officer performing the function of that office for deposit to the credit of the county road and bridge fund.

Explanation: The addition of text is necessary to provide for a permitting process to authorize the operation of a ready-mixed concrete truck with three axles.

(4) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to add text on a matter not included in either the house

or senate version of the bill by adding proposed SECTION 119 to the bill, adding Subchapter Q, Chapter 623, Transportation Code, to read as follows:

SECTION 119. Chapter 623, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Q to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Q. VEHICLES TRANSPORTING TIMBER

Sec. 623.321. PERMIT. (a) The department may issue a permit under this subchapter, as an alternative to a permit issued under Section 623.011, authorizing a person to operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles that is being used to transport unrefined timber, wood chips, or woody biomass in a county identified as a timber producing county in the most recent edition of the Texas A&M Forest Service's Harvest Trends Report as of May 15, 2013, at the weight limits prescribed by Subsection (b).

(b) A person may operate over a road or highway a vehicle or combination of vehicles issued a permit under this section at a gross weight that is not heavier than 84,000 pounds, if the gross load carried on any tandem axle of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed 44,000 pounds.

(c) Section 621.508 does not apply to a vehicle or combination of vehicles operated under this section.

(d) The department shall annually update the number of timber producing counties described by Subsection (a) based on the most recent edition of the Texas A&M Forest Service's Harvest Trends Report.

Sec. 623.322. QUALIFICATION; REQUIREMENTS. (a) To

qualify for a permit under this subchapter for a vehicle or combination of vehicles, a person must:

(1) pay a permit fee of \$1,500;

(2) designate in the permit application the timber producing counties described by Section 623.321(a) in which the vehicle or combination of vehicles will be operated; and

(3) satisfy the security requirement of Section 623.012.

(b) A permit issued under this subchapter:

(1) is valid for one year; and

(2) must be carried in the vehicle for which it is issued.

Sec. 623.323. NOTIFICATION. (a) For purposes of this section, "financially responsible party" means the owner of the vehicle or combination of vehicles, the party operating the vehicle or combination of vehicles, or a person that hires, leases, rents, or subcontracts the vehicle or combination of vehicles for use on a road maintained by a county or a state highway.

(b) Before a vehicle or combination of vehicles for which a permit is issued under this subchapter may be operated on a road maintained by a county or a state highway, the financially responsible party shall execute a notification document and agree to reimburse the county or the state, as applicable, for damage to a road or highway sustained as a consequence of the transportation authorized by the permit. At a minimum, the notification document must include:

(1) the name and address of the financially responsible party;

(2) a description of each permit issued for the vehicle or combination of vehicles;

(3) a description of the method of compliance by the financially responsible party with Sections 601.051 and 623.012;

(4) the address or location of the geographic area in which the financially responsible party wishes to operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles and a designation of the specific route of travel anticipated by the financially responsible party, including the name or number of each road maintained by a county or state highway;

(5) a calendar or schedule of duration that includes the days and hours of operation during which the financially responsible party reasonably anticipates using the county road or state highway identified in Subdivision (4); and

(6) a list of each vehicle or combination of vehicles by license plate number or other registration information, and a description of the means by which financial responsibility is established for each vehicle or combination of vehicles if each vehicle or combination of vehicles is not covered by a single insurance policy, surety bond, deposit, or other means of financial assurance.

(c) A financially responsible party shall electronically file the notification document described by Subsection (b) with the department under rules adopted by the department not later than the second business day before the first business day listed

by the financially responsible party under Subsection (b)(5). The department shall immediately send an electronic copy of the notification document to each county identified in the notification document and the Texas Department of Transportation and an electronic receipt for the notification document to the financially responsible party. Not later than the first business day listed by the financially responsible party under Subsection (b)(5), a county or the Texas Department of Transportation may inspect a road or highway identified in the notification document. If an inspection is conducted under this subsection, a county or the Texas Department of Transportation shall:

(1) document the condition of the roads or highways and take photographs of the roads or highways as necessary to establish a baseline for any subsequent assessment of damage sustained by the financially responsible party's use of the roads or highways; and

(2) provide a copy of the documentation to the financially responsible party.

(d) If an inspection has been conducted under Subsection (c), a county or the Texas Department of Transportation, as applicable, shall, not later than the fifth business day after the expiration of the calendar or schedule of duration described by Subsection (b)(5):

(1) conduct an inspection described by Subsection (c)(1) to determine any damage sustained by the financially responsible party's use of the roads or highways; and

(2) provide a copy of the inspection documentation

to the financially responsible party.

(e) The state or a county required to be notified under this section may assert a claim against any security posted under Section 623.012 or insurance filed under Section 643.103 for damage to a road or highway sustained as a consequence of the transportation authorized by the permit.

(f) This section does not apply to a vehicle or combination of vehicles that are being used to transport unrefined timber, wood chips, or woody biomass from:

(1) a storage yard to the place of first processing;

or

(2) outside this state to a place of first processing in this state.

Sec. 623.324. DISPOSITION OF FEE. (a) Of the fee collected under Section 623.322 for a permit:

(1) 50 percent of the amount collected shall be deposited to the credit of the state highway fund; and

(2) the other 50 percent shall be divided equally among all counties designated in the permit application under Section 623.322(a)(2).

(b) At least once each fiscal year, the comptroller shall send the amount due each county under Subsection (a) to the county treasurer or officer performing the function of that office for deposit to the credit of the county road and bridge fund.

Sec. 623.325. INTERSTATE AND DEFENSE HIGHWAYS.

(a) This subchapter does not authorize the operation on the

national system of interstate and defense highways in this state of a vehicle of a size or weight greater than those permitted under 23 U.S.C. Section 127.

(b) If the United States authorizes the operation on the national system of interstate and defense highways of a vehicle of a size or weight greater than those permitted under 23 U.S.C. Section 127 on September 1, 2013, the new limit automatically takes effect on the national system of interstate and defense highways in this state.

Explanation: The addition of text is necessary to provide for a permitting process to authorize a person to operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles to transport unrefined timber, wood chips, or woody biomass in certain counties.

(5) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to add text on a matter not included in either the house or senate version of the bill in proposed SECTION 140(2) of the bill by adding Sections 622.013, 622.017, and 622.018, Transportation Code, to the list of repealed sections in the bill:

(2) Sections 502.252(b), 503.009(b), 503.029(b), 503.030(b), 503.066(b), 520.008, 520.009, 520.0091, 520.0092, 622.013, 622.017, 622.018, 623.0711(k), and 623.093(f), Transportation Code;

Explanation: The addition of text is necessary to eliminate a surety bond requirement applicable to owners of ready-mixed concrete trucks and penalties related to the requirement.

S.R. No. 1090

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on May 26, 2013, by the
following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate