

By: Perry

S.B. No. 1338

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an exemption from length limitations for certain  
3 vehicles or combinations of vehicles used to transport harvest  
4 machines.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 622.902, Transportation Code, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 622.902. LENGTH EXCEPTIONS. The length limitations  
9 provided by Sections 621.203 to 621.205 do not apply to:

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

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

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

21 (4) a truck-tractor, truck-tractor combination, or  
22 truck-trailer combination exclusively transporting machinery,  
23 materials, and equipment used in the construction, operation, and  
24 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; ~~or~~

20 (7) a vehicle or combination of vehicles used to  
21 transport a harvest machine [~~combine~~] that is used in farm custom  
22 harvesting operations on a farm if the overall length of the vehicle  
23 or 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; or

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 50,000.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.