

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) a truck-tractor, truck-tractor combination, or truck-trailer combination exclusively transporting machinery, materials, and equipment used in the construction, operation, and 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 300,000.

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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1338 passed the Senate on May 5, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; May 28, 2015, Senate refused to concur in House amendment and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 29, 2015, House granted request of the Senate; May 31, 2015, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1338 passed the House, with amendment, on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting; May 29, 2015, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2015, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor