

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 1607

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of vehicles transporting precast prestressed concrete products.

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

SECTION 1. Section 621.102(d), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A vehicle operating under a permit issued under Section 623.011, 623.071, 623.094, 623.121, 623.142, 623.181, 623.192, 623.212, ~~[or] 623.321, or 623.402 [as added by Chapter 1135 (H.B. 2741), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013,]~~ may operate under the conditions authorized by the permit over a road for which the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation has set a maximum weight under this section.

SECTION 2. Section 621.301(e), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) A vehicle operating under a permit issued under Section 623.011, 623.071, 623.094, 623.121, 623.142, 623.181, 623.192, 623.212, ~~[or] 623.321, or 623.402 [as added by Chapter 1135 (H.B. 2741), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013,]~~ may operate under the conditions authorized by the permit over a road for which the commissioners court has set a maximum weight under this section.

SECTION 3. Chapter 623, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subchapter U to read as follows:

1 SUBCHAPTER U. PRECAST PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PRODUCTS

2 Sec. 623.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "precast
3 prestressed concrete products" means concrete that is batched,
4 placed in forms, and cured in a manufacturing facility for the
5 purpose of transporting to a job site to be erected into a final
6 structure.

7 Sec. 623.402. PERMIT FOR VEHICLE TRANSPORTING PRECAST
8 PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PRODUCTS. (a) The department shall issue a
9 permit that authorizes the operation of a vehicle or combination of
10 vehicles transporting precast prestressed concrete products at a
11 gross weight that is not heavier than 100,000 pounds.

12 (b) A permit issued under this subchapter:

13 (1) is valid for one year, except as provided by
14 Subsection(d); and

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

17 (c) A vehicle issued a permit under this subchapter may
18 operate on a state, county, or municipal road, including a
19 load-zoned county road or a frontage road adjacent to a federal
20 interstate highway, if the vehicle displays a sticker required by
21 Section 623.403 and does not exceed the maximum gross weight
22 authorized under Subsection(a).

23 (d) The department may issue a permit under this subchapter
24 that is valid for a period of less than one year. The department
25 shall prorate any applicable fee required for a permit issued under
26 this subsection as necessary to reflect the term of the permit.

27 Sec. 623.403. PERMIT STICKER. (a) When the department

1 issues a permit under this subchapter, the department shall issue a
2 sticker to be placed on the front windshield of the vehicle. The
3 department shall design the form of the sticker to aid in the
4 enforcement ofw eight limits for vehicles.

5 (b) The sticker must:

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

7 (2) be removed from the vehicle when:

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

10 (B) a lease of the vehicle expires; or

11 (C) the vehicle is sold.

12 Sec. 623.404. COUNTY DESIGNATION. The department by rule
13 shall require an applicant under this subchapter to designate in
14 the permit application the counties in which the applicant intends
15 to operate.

16 Sec. 623.405. CERTAIN COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL ACTIONS
17 PROHIBITED. Unless otherwise provided by state or federal law, a
18 county or municipality may not require a permit, fee, or license for
19 the operation of a vehicle described by Section 623.402(a) in
20 addition to a permit, fee, or license required by state law.

21 Sec. 623.406. TIMES AND DAYS OF MOVEMENT. (a) Movement
22 authorized by a permit issued under this subchapter may be made on
23 any day, provided that in a county with a population of more than
24 300,000, movement may not be made between:

25 (1) 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.; and

26 (2) 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.;

27 (b) For counties with a population less than 300,000, the

1 Texas Department of Transportation, in coordination with local
2 units of government, may limit the hours for travel on certain
3 routes because of heavy or dangerous traffic conditions.

4 (c) The Texas Department of Transportation shall publish
5 the limitation on movements prescribed by this section and the
6 limitations adopted under Subsection (b) and shall make the
7 publications available to the public. Each limitation adopted by
8 the Texas Department of Transportation must be made available to
9 the public before it takes effect.

10 Sec. 623.407. INTERSTATE AND DEFENSE HIGHWAYS. (a) This
11 subchapter does not authorize the operation on the national system
12 of interstate and defense highways in this state of a vehicle of a
13 size or weight greater than those permitted under 23 U.S.C. Section
14 127.

15 (b) If the United States authorizes the operation on the
16 national system of interstate and defense highways of a vehicle of a
17 size or weight greater than those permitted under 23 U.S.C. Section
18 127 on September 1, 2017, the new limit automatically takes effect
19 on the national system of interstate and defense highways in this
20 state.

21 SECTION 4. STUDY OF ISSUES RELATING TO TRUCK TRAFFIC ON
22 TOLLROADS OF THIS STATE. The 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
23 hereby requests that the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the
24 house of representatives to create a joint interim committee to
25 study the issue of overweight truck access to toll roads and the
26 cost and benefits thereof, and that the committee's proceedings and
27 operations be governed by such general rules and policies for joint

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1 interim committees as the 85th Legislature may adopt.

2 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.