

By: Burrows

H.B. No. 3762

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to size limitations for certain vehicles transporting agricultural products and equipment.

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

SECTION 1. Section 622.101, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a [A] single motor vehicle or truck-tractor operated in combination with a semitrailer and trailer or semitrailer and semitrailer used exclusively to transport chile pepper modules, seed cotton, cotton, cotton burrs, hay, or equipment used to transport or process chile pepper modules, [or] cotton, or hay, including a motor vehicle or burr spreader, may not be operated on a highway or road if the vehicle is:

(1) wider than 10 feet and the highway has not been designated by the commission under Section 621.202;

(2) longer than 48 feet, if the vehicle is a single motor vehicle; or

(3) higher than 14 feet 6 inches, if the vehicle is a single motor vehicle.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a vehicle transporting cylindrical bales of hay under a permit issued under Section 623.017 or 623.071(a)(1).

1 SECTION 2. Section 622.902, Transportation Code, is amended
2 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

16 (4) a truck-tractor, truck-tractor combination, or
17 truck-trailer combination exclusively transporting machinery,
18 materials, and equipment used in the construction, operation, and
19 maintenance of facilities, including pipelines, that are used for
20 the discovery, production, and processing of natural gas or
21 petroleum;

22 (5) a drive-away saddlemount vehicle transporter
23 combination or a drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle
24 transporter combination, as defined by 23 C.F.R. Part 658 or its
25 successor, if:

26 (A) the overall length of the combination is not
27 longer than 97 feet; and

1 (B) the combination does not have more than three
2 saddlemounted vehicles if the combination does not include more
3 than one fullmount vehicle;

4 (6) the combination of a tow truck and another vehicle
5 or vehicle combination if:

6 (A) the other vehicle or vehicle combination
7 cannot be normally or safely driven or was abandoned on a highway;
8 and

9 (B) the tow truck is towing the other vehicle or
10 vehicle combination directly to the nearest authorized place of
11 repair, terminal, or destination of unloading;

12 (7) a vehicle or combination of vehicles used to
13 transport a harvest machine that is used in farm custom harvesting
14 operations on a farm if the overall length of the vehicle or
15 combination is not longer than:

16 (A) 75 feet if the vehicle is traveling on a
17 highway that is part of the national system of interstate and
18 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system; or

19 (B) 81-1/2 feet if the vehicle is not traveling
20 on a highway that is part of the national system of interstate and
21 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system; [~~or~~]

22 (8) a truck-tractor operated in combination with a
23 semitrailer and trailer or semitrailer and semitrailer if:

24 (A) the combination is used to transport a
25 harvest machine that is used in farm custom harvesting operations
26 on a farm;

27 (B) the overall length of the combination,

1 excluding the length of the truck-tractor, is not longer than
2 81-1/2 feet; and

3 (C) the combination is traveling on a highway
4 that:

5 (i) is not part of the national system of
6 interstate and defense highways or the federal aid primary highway
7 system; and

8 (ii) is located in a county with a
9 population of less than 300,000; or

10 (9) a truck-tractor operated in combination with a
11 semitrailer and trailer or semitrailer and semitrailer if:

12 (A) the combination is used to transport chile
13 pepper modules, seed cotton, cotton, cotton burrs, hay, or
14 equipment used to transport or process chile pepper modules,
15 cotton, or hay, including a motor vehicle or burr spreader; and

16 (B) the overall length of the combination is not
17 longer than:

18 (i) 75 feet if the combination is traveling
19 on a highway that is part of the national system of interstate and
20 defense highways or the federal aid primary highway system; or

21 (ii) 81-1/2 feet if the combination is not
22 traveling on a highway that is part of the national system of
23 interstate and defense highways or the federal aid primary highway
24 system.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.