



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Hearing – March 14, 2011 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Acting Commissioner James P. Redeker Department of Transportation

H.B. 6568 - An Act Concerning the Operation of Vehicles Requiring a Special Permit Due to the Width or Length of Such Vehicles.

The Department of Transportation (Department) is opposed to H.B. 6568 which would allow oversize/overweight vehicles operating under a special permit issued by ConnDOT to operate outside the permit limits during certain circumstances.

Currently, oversize/overweight permits are issued for single trips between the points designated on the permit and are issued for three days to take into consideration the possibility of inclement weather. Oversize/overweight permits are not valid during inclement weather. Due to low underpasses and bridge weight restrictions these vehicles are not allowed to travel on routes not specified on a permit and failure to abide by the established permit route is subject to our largest fine.

During periods of unforeseen inclement weather, drivers should locate a safe place along the route until operation can again be initiated. If the day starts out with inclement weather and weather conditions do not call for clearing during the day, the permittee, their operator or agent, shall use reasonable judgment and shall reschedule, suspend or postpone a trip if said trip will impair the public safety. If unforeseen weather conditions occur, law enforcement and the Department's maintenance crews provide safe passage assistance to make sure drivers reach a safe place to park or rest.

Because of the potential to significantly compromise the transportation infrastructure, the Department does recommend allowing oversize/overweight vehicles to travel on unapproved routes outside of their permit limits.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.