



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 293

February Session, 2016

Substitute House Bill No. 5548

House of Representatives, March 30, 2016

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF MOBILE AND MODULAR HOMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-262 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2016*):

4 (a) The following vehicles shall not be operated upon any highway
5 or bridge without a special written permit from the Commissioner of
6 Transportation, as provided in section 14-270, as amended by this act,
7 specifying the conditions under which they may be so operated:

8 (1) A vehicle, combination of vehicle and trailer or commercial
9 vehicle combination, including each such vehicle's load, which is
10 wider than [one hundred two inches or its approximate metric
11 equivalent of two and six-tenths meters or one hundred two and
12 thirty-six-hundredths inches] fourteen feet, including its load [, but not

13 including] and the following safety devices: Reasonably sized rear
14 view mirrors, turn signals, steps and handholds for entry and egress,
15 spray and splash suppressant devices, load-induced tire bulge and any
16 other state-approved safety device which the Commissioner of
17 Transportation determines is necessary for the safe and efficient
18 operation of such a vehicle or combination, provided no such state-
19 approved safety device protrudes more than three inches from each
20 side of the vehicle or provided no such device has by its design or use
21 the capability to carry cargo. Such permit shall not be required in the
22 case of (A) farm equipment, (B) a vehicle or combination of vehicle and
23 trailer loaded with hay or straw, (C) a school bus equipped with a
24 folding stop sign or exterior mirror, as approved by the Commissioner
25 of Motor Vehicles, which results in a combined width of bus and sign
26 or bus and mirror in excess of that established by this subsection, (D) a
27 trailer designed and used exclusively for transporting boats when the
28 gross weight of such boats does not exceed four thousand pounds, (E)
29 a recreation vehicle with appurtenances, including safety devices and
30 retracted shade awnings, no greater than six inches on each side for a
31 maximum allowance of twelve inches, or (F) a vehicle with an attached
32 snow plow, provided the snow plow may not exceed one hundred
33 forty-four inches in width; and

34 (2) A combination of truck and trailer which is longer than [sixty-
35 five] one hundred ten feet except (A) [a combination of truck and
36 trailer or tractor and semitrailer loaded with utility poles, both trailer
37 and semitrailer having a maximum length of forty-eight feet, utility
38 poles having a maximum length of fifty feet and the overall length not
39 to exceed eighty feet, (B)] a trailer designed and used exclusively for
40 transporting boats when the gross weight of such boats does not
41 exceed four thousand pounds, [(C)] (B) a tractor-trailer unit, [(D)] or
42 (C) a commercial vehicle combination, [, (E) combinations of vehicles
43 considered as specialized equipment in 23 CFR 658.13(e), as amended,
44 having a maximum overall length of sixty-five feet on traditional
45 automobile transporters, with the fifth wheel located on the tractor
46 frame over the rear axle or axles, including low boys, or a maximum
47 overall length of seventy-five feet on stinger-steered automobile

48 transporters, excluding front and rear cargo overhangs, provided the
 49 front cargo overhang shall not exceed three feet and the rear overhang
 50 shall not exceed four feet. Extendable ramps used to achieve such
 51 three-foot front overhang and four-foot rear overhang shall be
 52 excluded from the measurement of overall length and shall be
 53 retracted when they are not supporting vehicles, or (F) a tractor
 54 equipped with a dromedary box operated in combination with a
 55 semitrailer which tractor and semitrailer do not exceed seventy-five
 56 feet in overall length.]

57 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-270 of the general statutes is
 58 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
 59 *October 1, 2016*):

60 (b) Any permit issued in respect to any vehicle or combination of
 61 vehicles or vehicle and trailer on account of its excessive weight shall
 62 be limited to the gross weight shown or to be shown on the
 63 registration certificate. A permit granted under this section for a
 64 vehicle or load, greater than [twelve] fourteen feet, but no greater than
 65 [thirteen feet six inches] sixteen feet in width and traveling on
 66 undivided highways, shall (1) require [a single escort motor vehicle to
 67 precede such vehicle or load. No escort motor vehicle shall be required
 68 to follow such vehicle or load on such highways] not more than two
 69 police vehicles to escort such vehicle or load, and (2) limit travel for
 70 such vehicle or load to between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on
 71 Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday.

72 Sec. 3. Sections 14-262b and 14-262d of the general statutes are
 73 repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2016*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	14-262(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	14-270(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	Repealer section

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 17 \$	FY 18 \$
Department of Transportation	TF - Revenue Loss	1,200,000	1,800,000

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases a vehicle's allowable width and length before it needs an oversized vehicle permit which will result in a revenue loss of approximately \$1,200,000 in FY 17 and approximately \$1,800,000 in FY 18 and annually thereafter, which is dependent on the number of vehicles that will no longer need a permit. In FY 15, 68,590 permits were issued at \$26.00 for a total of \$1,783,340.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future dependent on the number of permits.

Sources: Department of Transportation

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5548*****AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF MOBILE AND MODULAR HOMES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases a vehicle's allowable width and length before it needs an oversized vehicle permit. With regard to vehicles within certain dimensions, the bill (1) eliminates existing law's mandatory escort requirement and (2) limits travel to certain days and hours.

The bill also eliminates specific permitting requirements for transporting mobile homes, modular homes, house trailers, or sectional houses (see BACKGROUND) and instead requires vehicles transporting such structures to obtain a permit for oversized vehicles.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

DIMENSIONS FOR OVERSIZED VEHICLES

By law, to operate on public roads, vehicles of a certain size, based on their width or length, must obtain an oversized vehicle permit from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioner. Under current law, the permit requirement is triggered if the vehicle, including its load but excluding certain safety devices, is 102 inches (8.5 feet) wide or in the case of trucks and trailers, is 65 feet long.

The bill increases the vehicle width that triggers the permit requirement to 14 feet including certain safety devices. Safety devices include reasonably sized rear view mirrors, turn signals, steps and handholds for entry, spray and splash suppressant devices, and load-induced tire bulge. They also include any other state-approved safety device that the DOT commissioner determines is necessary for the safe

and efficient operation of the vehicle, as long as the device does not protrude more than three inches from each side of the vehicle and is not designed to or capable of holding cargo.

The bill increases the truck and trailer length that triggers the permit requirement to 110 feet. In doing so, it eliminates the need for certain vehicles (e.g., certain trucks loaded with utility poles, vehicles with certain specialized equipment, and certain tractor trailers with semitrailers) to obtain an oversized permit as is required under current law because they are longer than 65 feet.

REGULATIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON TRAVEL FOR CERTAIN OVERSIZED VEHICLES

Current law requires the DOT commissioner, when issuing an oversize permit for an oversized vehicle or load with a width between 12 and 13.5 feet that will travel on an undivided highway, to require a single escort vehicle to precede such vehicle or load. The bill (1) increases the triggering threshold to a vehicle or load with a width between 14 and 16 feet, (2) eliminates the escort vehicle requirement, and (3) specifies that the permit may require up to two police vehicle escorts. It also limits travel for these oversized vehicles to between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Friday. Existing regulations impose travel time restrictions on all oversize vehicle permittees (Conn Agencies Regs. § 14-270-18).

BACKGROUND

Transporting Mobile Homes, Modular Homes, House Trailers, or Sectional Houses

By law, the DOT commissioner grants a permit for vehicles transporting mobile homes, modular homes, house trailers, or sectional houses. The standards for transporting these structures must require that:

1. the towing vehicle have a minimum manufacturer's gross weight rating of 10,000 pounds and dual wheels on the drive axle;

2. these vehicles travel only during daylight hours, weekdays, and favorable weather and road conditions;
3. vehicles wider than 12 feet be limited to traveling between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays;
4. the maximum width of house trailers, including all roof overhangs, sills, knobs, and siding be 14 feet;
5. a safe passing distance be maintained between vehicles when the overall width is greater than 10 feet; and
6. the combined length of the unit when attached to the towing vehicle not exceed 85 feet except that 90 feet is permitted when the towed unit is not longer than 66 feet excluding the hitch and roof overhang (CGS § 12-262d).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/15/2016)