
SENATE BILL NO. 39—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)

PREFILED JANUARY 26, 2007

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the limitations on the
length of certain vehicles. (BDR 43-590)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to traffic laws; prescribing the maximum length of
a driveaway saddle mount with a full mount vehicle
transporter combination; and providing other matters
properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law establishes the maximum length of certain vehicles and requires
2 the Department of Transportation to provide by regulation for the operation of
3 combinations of vehicles in excess of 70 feet in length. (NRS 484.739) Certain
4 vehicles are exempt from these limitations on length, including certain
5 combinations that do not exceed 75 feet in length. Existing federal law prohibits
6 states from prescribing or enforcing a regulation of commerce that imposes a
7 vehicle length limitation of not less than or more than 97 feet on a driveaway saddle
8 mount with full mount vehicle transporter combinations. (49 U.S.C. §
9 31111(b)(1)(D)) This bill revises the exemption from the limitation on length for
10 certain combinations in state law to conform with the limitation in federal law and
11 defines the term “driveaway saddle mount with full mount vehicle transporter
12 combination” consistent with federal law. (NRS 484.739)



* S B 3 9 *

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 484.739 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 484.739 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the
3 length of a bus may not exceed 45 feet and the length of a
4 motortruck may not exceed 40 feet.

5 2. A passenger bus which has three or more axles and two
6 sections joined together by an articulated joint with a trailer which is
7 equipped with a mechanically steered rear axle may not exceed a
8 length of 65 feet.

9 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4, 7 and 9, no
10 combination of vehicles, including any attachments thereto coupled
11 together, may exceed a length of 70 feet.

12 4. The Department of Transportation, by regulation, shall
13 provide for the operation of combinations of vehicles in excess of 70
14 feet in length. The regulations must establish standards for the
15 operation of such vehicles which must be consistent with their safe
16 operation upon the public highways and with the provisions of 23
17 C.F.R. § 658.23. Such standards must include:

18 (a) Types and number of vehicles to be permitted in
19 combination;

20 (b) Horsepower of a motortruck;

21 (c) Operating speeds;

22 (d) Braking ability; and

23 (e) Driver qualifications.

24 ➡ The operation of such vehicles is not permitted on highways
25 where, in the opinion of the Department of Transportation, their use
26 would be inconsistent with the public safety because of a narrow
27 roadway, excessive grades, extreme curvature or vehicular
28 congestion.

29 5. Combinations of vehicles operated under the provisions of
30 subsection 4 may, after obtaining a special permit issued at the
31 discretion of, and in accordance with procedures established by, the
32 Department of Transportation, carry loads not to exceed the values
33 set forth in the following formula: $W=500 [LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36]$,
34 wherein:

35 (a) W equals the maximum load in pounds carried on any group
36 of two or more consecutive axles computed to the nearest 500
37 pounds;

38 (b) L equals the distance in feet between the extremes of any
39 group of two or more consecutive axles; and

40 (c) N equals the number of axles in the group under
41 consideration.



* S B 3 9 *

1 ➤ The distance between axles must be measured to the nearest foot.
2 If a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the next largest whole number
3 must be used. The permits may be restricted in such manner as the
4 Department of Transportation considers necessary and may, at the
5 option of the Department, be cancelled without notice. No such
6 permits may be issued for operation on any highway where that
7 operation would prevent this State from receiving federal money for
8 highway purposes.

9 6. Upon approving an application for a permit to operate
10 combinations of vehicles pursuant to subsection 5, the Department
11 of Transportation shall withhold issuance of the permit until the
12 applicant has furnished proof of compliance with the provisions of
13 NRS 706.531.

14 7. The load upon any motor vehicle operated alone, or the load
15 upon any combination of vehicles, must not extend beyond the front
16 or the rear of the vehicle or combination of vehicles for a distance of
17 more than 10 feet, or a total of 10 feet both to the front or the rear,
18 and a combination of vehicles and load thereon may not exceed a
19 total of 75 feet without having secured a permit pursuant to
20 subsection 4 or NRS 484.737. The provisions of this subsection do
21 not apply to the booms or masts of shovels, cranes or water well
22 drilling and servicing equipment carried upon a vehicle if:

23 (a) The booms or masts do not extend by a distance greater than
24 two-thirds of the wheelbase beyond the front tires of the vehicle.

25 (b) The projecting structure or attachments thereto are securely
26 held in place to prevent dropping or swaying.

27 (c) No part of the structure which extends beyond the front tires
28 is less than 7 feet from the roadway.

29 (d) The driver's vision is not impaired by the projecting or
30 supporting structure.

31 8. Lights and other warning devices which are required to be
32 mounted on a vehicle pursuant to this chapter must not be included
33 in determining the length of a vehicle or combination of vehicles
34 and the load thereon.

35 9. This section does not apply to:

36 (a) Vehicles used by a public utility for the transportation of
37 poles;

38 (b) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor
39 drawing a semitrailer that does not exceed 53 feet in length;

40 (c) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck-tractor
41 drawing a semitrailer and a trailer, neither of which exceeds 28 1/2
42 feet in length; or

43 (d) A **driveaway saddle mount with full mount vehicle**
44 **transporter** combination ~~for vehicles consisting of a truck tractor~~



~~drawing no more than three saddle-mounted vehicles and one full-mounted vehicle~~ that does not exceed ~~{75}~~ 97 feet in length.

10. As used in this section:

(a) *“Driveaway saddle mount with full mount vehicle transporter combination” means a vehicle combination designed and specifically used to tow up to three trucks or truck tractors, each connected by a saddle to the frame or fifth wheel of the forward vehicle of the truck-tractor in front of it.*

(b) “Full-mounted vehicle” means a smaller vehicle mounted completely on the frame of a saddle-mounted vehicle.

~~{(b)}~~ (c) “Motortruck” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 482.073.

~~{(c)}~~ (d) “Saddle-mounted vehicle” means a vehicle forming part of a combination of vehicles used in a driveaway-towaway operation that is connected by a saddle mount to the frame or fifth-wheel coupling of the vehicle in front of it.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

