Bill: Senate File 355 (companion to HF 583)
Committee: Transportation
Date: April 9, 2013
Floor Manager: Rep. Moore
Staff: Kristi Kielhorn (2-5290)

Overweight/Oversize Vehicles

- SF 355 makes changes relating to the regulation of overweight/oversize vehicles.

Summary of Action

The House Transportation Committee PASSED HSB 135/HF 583 on March 5, 2013 by a vote of 21-0.
The Senate Transportation Committee PASSED SSB 1148/SF 355 on March 7, 2013 by a vote of 13-0.
The Senate PASSED SF 355 on March 13, 2013 by a vote of 49-0-1.
The House Ways and Means Committee PASSED SF 355 on March 28, 2013 by a vote of 24-0-1.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – Limitations on Trucks by Local Authorities
This section strikes provisions relating to annual permits for the operation of compact rubbish vehicles (moved to a new code section).

Section 2 – Permits by Departments and Local Authorities
This section provides that if a vehicle permitted to transport indivisible loads has a retractable body extension, the extension must be reduced to legal dimensions unless the vehicle is loaded and the extension is in use. This section also allows persons requesting permits to do so in person, online, by fax, or by phone.

Section 3 – Permit Issuing Authorities
This section states (at the request of the local authority) the Department of Transportation shall issue other types of permits for streets under local jurisdiction if the local authority has indicated in writing those streets where a permit is not valid.

Section 4 – Load Limits Per Axle
This section makes technical revisions and includes the axle and gross weight limitations for raw milk transporters and rubbish vehicles.

Section 5 – Annual Permits
This section provides that certain commercial vehicles which are currently allowed to operate at up to 90,000 lbs. with six axles, and up to 96,000 lbs. with seven axles, are exempt from permitting requirements based on weight in excess of 80,000 lbs. This section also makes some exemption for certain cranes.

Section 6 – Single-Trip Permits
This section provides that the maximum height, width, length, and weight of vehicle loads under a single-trip permit shall be limited to the maximum clearance limitations of the roadways of the intended route.

Section 7 – Multi-Trip Permits
This section limits the maximum height allowed for a vehicle with an indivisible load under a multi-trip permit to 15 feet, 5 inches (currently there is no height restriction).

Section 8 – Special Alternative Energy Multi-Trip Permit
This section makes technical, conforming changes.

Section 9 – Truck Trailers Manufactured in Iowa
This section amends the code section on annual trip permits for trucks/trailers manufactured in Iowa that exceed length/width requirements, etc. by limiting the applicability of the section to semi-trailers and trailers.

Section 10 – Movement Under Permit—Penalty
This section specifies that certain permitted vehicles be equipped with projecting-load lights.

Section 11 – Registration Must Be Consistent
This section amends an exception to provide that a private carrier who is not for hire may transport special mobile equipment on a vehicle registered for the gross weight of the transport vehicle and cargo, minus the weight of the special mobile equipment under certain circumstances.

Section 12 – Financial Responsibility
This section makes technical, conforming changes.

Section 13 – Fees for Permits
This section contains a schedule of fees for permits currently issued by the Department of Transportation or local authorities. It does not change the fees—just puts them all in one code section.

Section 14 – Violations—Penalties
This section adds a penalty for violations by escort vehicle operators by making it a simple misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled fine of $200.

Section 15 – Serious Violations
This section adds violations of obedience to official traffic control devices, maximum length of vehicles, and weight restrictions to the list of violations to which this code section applies.

Section 16 – Overall Operations Considered
This section makes technical, conforming changes.
Section 17 – Permit Suspended, Changed, or Revoked
This section provides that a permit-issuing authority may deny, change, suspend, or revoke any permit issued for good cause.

Section 18 – Suspension Period
This section makes technical, conforming changes.

Section 19 – Warning and Light Devices on Oversize Loads
This section provides for the adoption of rules by the Department of Transportation regarding oversize load signs, warning flags, etc.

Section 20 – Use of Highway or Interstate System
This section makes a technical, conforming change.

Section 21 – Excess Size Divisible Load Permits
This section specifies that permits which currently may be used for vehicles with divisible loads of hay, straw, or stover without a finding of special or emergency situations are annual permits which allow the vehicle to be moved with certain restrictions.

Section 22 – Raw Milk Transporters
This section makes a technical, conforming change.

Section 23 – Compacted Rubbish Transporters
This section moves the responsibility for issuance of the permits and designation of routes for compacted rubbish vehicles from the Department of Transportation to the localities.

Section 24 – Movement of Structures and other Loads on Dolly Axles
This section provides that current requirements for the movement of structures and buildings on dolly axles apply to the movement of structures and other indivisible loads.

Section 25 – Escort Requirements
This section deletes the current specific requirements for escort vehicles used in the movement of vehicles of excessive size and weight.

Section 26 – Roads and Traffic
This section amends the code section providing for a county’s authority over specific issues relating to roads to include the regulation of traffic on and the use of secondary roads as it relates to oversize/overweight vehicles.

Sections 27 and 28 – Repeals and Transfers
These sections repeal and transfer certain sections to improve readability.

Amendment Analysis

Amendment H-1258 by Smith, J.
Currently, road maintenance equipment that is under contract with a state or local authority is exempt from size, weight, and load limitations, as well as permitting requirements. This amendment expands that exemption to still apply when the equipment is being used for a purpose not related to the contract.