

LEGISLATIVE BILL 306

Approved by the Governor May 9, 1975

Introduced by Wiltse, 1

AN ACT to amend section 39-6,181, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 39-6,177, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1974, relating to the Nebraska Rules of the Road; to change provisions relating to exceptions to width, length, and weight restrictions as prescribed; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 39-6,177, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1974, be amended to read as follows:

39-6,177. No vehicle shall exceed a total outside width, including any load thereon, of eight feet except that such prohibition shall not apply to (1) a vehicle with a load of pulpwood in movement during daylight hours when such maximum width shall be one hundred inches and the load is bound with at least two separate iron chains or cables comprised of material not less than one half inch in thickness or diameter attached to the front and rear of the loading platform and frame of the vehicle so as to hold the load securely in place, (2) farm equipment in temporary movement during daylight hours, or during hours of darkness when the clearance light requirements of section 39-6,127 are fully complied with, in the normal course of farm operations, (3) combines or vehicles used in transporting combines, to be engaged in harvesting within or without the state, moving into or through the state during daylight hours when the overall width does not exceed fifteen feet, (4) farm equipment dealers hauling, driving, delivering, or picking up farm equipment or implements of husbandry during daylight hours, ~~within the county in which the dealer maintains his place of business; or in any adjoining county or counties; and return;~~ (5) alfalfa harvesting machinery in temporary movement during daylight hours and hours of darkness when (a) the clearance-light requirements of section 39-6,127 are fully complied with, (b) there is, on the front vehicle and above the line of the regular lights of such vehicle, a flashing, amber-colored light at least four inches in diameter and clearly visible to traffic approaching from any direction, and (c) there is a well-lighted pilot vehicle or flagman at least three hundred feet in advance of such vehicles to give warning of the approach of

over-width equipment, and such prohibition shall not apply to equipment of thirteen feet or less in width to be used in highway or other public construction or in agricultural land treatment in temporary movement during daylight hours on roads other than dustless-surfaced state highways and for necessary access to points on such highways, (6) unbaled livestock forage vehicles loaded or unloaded that comply with subsection (4) of section 39-6,100; Provided, that no vehicle which shall exceed a total outside width, including any load thereon, of eight feet shall be permitted upon any portion of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, except intercity buses upon designated segments as hereinafter provided in this section, or (7) intercity buses which may be one hundred two inches in width plus additional width for safety devices when operated on certain highways designated by the Director-State Engineer for such operation. The Director-State Engineer, with respect to highways under his jurisdiction, may designate certain highways for the operation of such intercity buses upon the following conditions:

(a) Highways designated by the Director-State Engineer shall be limited to the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and four-lane and six-lane highways, except that other highways that are not part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways may be so designated for the sole purpose of directly connecting disconnected segments of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and four-lane and six-lane highways; Provided, that on two-lane highways so designated for connection each traffic lane shall not be less than ten feet in width; and

(b) No highways shall be so designated by the Director-State Engineer under the provisions of subdivision (7) (a) of this section prior to the time when intercity buses of such width are permitted on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

Sec. 2. That section 39-6,181, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

39-6,181. (1) The Department of Roads or the Nebraska State Patrol with respect to highways under their jurisdiction including the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, and county authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may in their discretion upon application and good cause being shown therefor, issue a special permit in writing authorizing the applicant (a) to operate or move a vehicle, a combination of vehicles or objects of a size

or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified by law when such permit is necessary to further the national defense or the general welfare, (b) to permit movement of cost-saving equipment to be used in highway or other public construction or in agricultural land treatment, or is necessary because of an emergency, an unusual circumstance, or a very special situation, or (c) to operate vehicles loaded up to twenty-five per cent greater than the maximum weight specified by law, or up to ten per cent greater than the maximum length specified by law, or both, when carrying grain or other seasonally harvested products from the field where they are harvested or assembled in the field to storage or market when failure to move in abundant quantities would cause an economic loss to the person or persons whose product or products are being transported or when failure to move such product or products in as large quantities as possible would not be in the best interests of the national defense or general welfare; Provided, no permit shall be issued under subdivisions (a) and (b) of this subsection for a vehicle carrying a load unless such vehicle is loaded with an object which exceeds the size or weight limitations and which object cannot be dismantled or reduced in size or weight without great difficulty and which of necessity must be moved over the highways to reach its intended destination; and provided further, no permit shall be required for the temporary movement on roads other than dustless-surfaced state highways and for necessary access to points on such highways during daylight hours of cost-saving equipment to be used in highway or other public construction or in agricultural land treatment where such temporary movement is necessary and for a reasonable distance.

(2) The application for any such permit shall specifically describe the vehicle and the load to be operated or moved and whenever possible the particular highways, roads, or streets for which permit to operate is requested, and whether such permit is requested for a single trip or for continuous operation.

(3) The department or county authority is authorized to issue or withhold such permit at its discretion; or, if such permit is issued, to limit the number of days during which the permit is valid, to limit the number of trips, or to establish seasonal or other time limitations within which the vehicles described may be operated on the highways indicated, or to issue a continuing permit for use only on highways other than the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways to (a) a manufacturer or its carrier covering all similar vehicles or products produced by such manufacturer, or (b) the owner of vehicles described in subdivision (1)

(c) of this section, subject to reasonable conditions as to periodic renewal of such permit and as to operation or movement of such vehicles, or otherwise to limit or prescribe conditions of operation of such vehicle or vehicles, when necessary to assure against undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces, or structures or undue danger to the public safety, and may require such undertaking or other security as may be deemed necessary to compensate for any injury to any roadway or road structure.

(4) Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any police officer or authorized agent of any authority granting such permit. Each such permit shall state the maximum weight permissible on a single axle or combination of axles and the total gross weight allowed. No person shall violate any of the terms or conditions of such special permit and in case of any violation, the permit shall be deemed automatically revoked and the penalty of the original limitations shall be applied unless the violation consists solely of exceeding the size or weight specified by the permit, in which case only the penalty of the original size or weight limitation exceeded shall be applied, or unless the total gross load is within the maximum authorized by the permit and no axle is more than ten per cent in excess of the maximum load for such axle or group of axles authorized by the permit and such load can be shifted to meet the weight limitations of wheel and axle loads authorized by such permit. Such shift may be made without penalty provided that such shift is made at the state or commercial scale designated in the permit. The vehicle may travel from its point of origin to such designated scale without penalty, and a scale ticket from such scale, showing the vehicle to be properly loaded and within the gross and axle weights authorized by the permit, shall be reasonable evidence of compliance with the terms of the permit.

(5) The department or county authority issuing a permit as provided in this section may promulgate rules and regulations with respect to the issuance of permits provided for in this section.

(6) The department or county authority issuing a permit may require a permit fee of not to exceed ten dollars; Provided, that the fee for a continuing permit may not exceed twenty-five dollars for a ninety-day period, fifty dollars for a one hundred eighty-day period, or one hundred dollars for a one-year period.

Sec. 3. That original section 39-6,181, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 39-6,177, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1974, are repealed.