



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 796

Chairperson: Tom Baker
Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications
Date of Hearing: January 23, 2006

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

In 1991 the federal ISTEA Act froze length allowances for long combination vehicles to lengths contained in each state's statutes at that time. Consequently, the length allowances for custom harvesters were frozen at 65 feet in Nebraska, although Kansas and Colorado allow 85 feet and the overall length allowed is 81 feet 6 inches in South Dakota. TEA-21 continued the freeze. Any change in Nebraska statutes without first obtaining a federal waiver could jeopardize our federal funding.

This past summer, SAFETEA-LU was passed on the federal level. It included language that specifically authorizes Nebraska to allow the operation of a truck tractor and two trailers or semitrailers if the length of the property-carrying units do not exceed 81 feet 6 inches and such combination is used only to transport equipment utilized by custom harvesters under contract to agricultural producers to harvest wheat, soybeans or milo during the harvest months, as defined by the State of Nebraska.

Therefore LB 796 places the federal language into state statute, authorizing the increase in the length allowances for custom harvesters. The bill also includes a definition of property-carrying unit and defines harvest months as April through November.

LB 796 also changes the length limitation from 75 feet to 97 feet for a driveaway saddlemount vehicle transporter combination, due to a change in federal requirements.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Douglas Cunningham