

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 874

Introduced by Adams, 24.

Read first time January 11, 2008

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Rules of the Road; to
2 amend sections 60-6,288 and 60-6,289, Reissue Revised
3 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-6,290 and 60-6,294,
4 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006; to allow
5 certain self-propelled specialized mobile equipment to
6 be transported on highways; and to repeal the original
7 sections.

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

1 Section 1. Section 60-6,288, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 60-6,288 (1) No vehicle which exceeds a total outside
4 width of one hundred two inches, including any load but excluding
5 designated safety devices, shall be permitted on any portion
6 of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. The
7 Director-State Engineer shall adopt and promulgate rules and
8 regulations, consistent with federal requirements, designating
9 safety devices which shall be excluded in determining vehicle
10 width.

11 (2) No vehicle which exceeds a total outside width of
12 one hundred two inches, including any load but excluding designated
13 safety devices, shall be permitted on any highway which is not a
14 portion of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways,
15 except that such prohibition shall not apply to:

16 (a) Farm equipment in temporary movement, during daylight
17 hours or during hours of darkness when the clearance light
18 requirements of section 60-6,235 are fully complied with, in
19 the normal course of farm operations;

20 (b) Combines eighteen feet or less in width, while in
21 the normal course of farm operations and while being driven during
22 daylight hours or during hours of darkness when the clearance light
23 requirements of section 60-6,235 are fully complied with;

24 (c) Combines in excess of eighteen feet in width, while
25 in the normal course of farm operations, while being driven during

1 daylight hours for distances of twenty-five miles or less on
2 highways and while preceded by a well-lighted pilot vehicle or
3 flagperson, except that such combines may be driven on highways
4 while in the normal course of farm operations for distances of
5 twenty-five miles or less and while preceded by a well-lighted
6 pilot vehicle or flagperson during hours of darkness when the
7 clearance light requirements of section 60-6,235 are fully complied
8 with;

9 (d) Combines and vehicles used in transporting combines
10 or other implements of husbandry, and only when transporting
11 combines or other implements of husbandry, to be engaged in
12 harvesting or other agricultural work, while being transported
13 into or through the state during daylight hours, when the total
14 width including the width of the combine or other implement of
15 husbandry being transported does not exceed fifteen feet, except
16 that vehicles used in transporting combines or other implements
17 of husbandry may, when necessary to the harvesting operation or
18 other agricultural work, travel unloaded for distances not to
19 exceed twenty-five miles, while the combine or other implement of
20 husbandry to be transported is engaged in a harvesting operation or
21 other agricultural work;

22 (e) Farm equipment dealers hauling, driving, delivering,
23 or picking up farm equipment, including portable livestock
24 buildings not exceeding fourteen feet in width, or implements of
25 husbandry during daylight hours;

1 (f) Livestock forage vehicles loaded or unloaded that
2 comply with subsection (2) of section 60-6,305;

3 (g) During daylight hours only, vehicles en route to
4 pick up, delivering, or returning unloaded from delivery of baled
5 livestock forage which, including the load if any, may be twelve
6 feet in width;

7 (h) Mobile homes or prefabricated livestock buildings not
8 exceeding sixteen feet in width and with an outside tire width
9 dimension not exceeding one hundred twenty inches moving during
10 daylight hours;

11 (i) A ~~rubber-tired crane~~ Self-propelled specialized
12 mobile equipment with a fixed load when:

13 (i) The ~~crane~~ self-propelled specialized mobile equipment
14 will be transported on a state highway, excluding any portion of
15 the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, on a city
16 street, or on a road within the corporate limits of a city;

17 (ii) The city in which the ~~crane~~ self-propelled
18 specialized mobile equipment is intended to be transported
19 has authorized a permit pursuant to section 60-6,298 for the
20 transportation of the ~~crane,~~ self-propelled specialized mobile
21 equipment, specifying the route to be used and the hours during
22 which the ~~crane~~ self-propelled specialized mobile equipment can
23 be transported, except that no permit shall be issued by a city
24 for travel on a state highway containing a bridge or structure
25 which is structurally inadequate to carry the ~~crane~~ self-propelled

1 specialized mobile equipment as determined by the Department of
2 Roads;

3 (iii) The ~~crane's~~ self-propelled specialized mobile
4 equipment's gross weight does not exceed ninety-four thousand
5 pounds, if a four-axle ~~crane,~~ self-propelled specialized mobile
6 equipment, or seventy-two thousand pounds, if a three-axle ~~crane,~~
7 self-propelled specialized mobile equipment; and

8 (iv) If a four-axle ~~crane,~~ self-propelled specialized
9 mobile equipment, the maximum weight on each set of tandem axles
10 does not exceed forty-seven thousand pounds, or if a three-axle
11 ~~crane,~~ self-propelled specialized mobile equipment, the maximum
12 weight on the front axle does not exceed twenty-five thousand
13 pounds and the total maximum weight on the rear tandem axles does
14 not exceed forty-seven thousand pounds;

15 (j) Vehicles which have been issued a permit pursuant to
16 section 60-6,299; or

17 (k) A motor home or travel trailer, as those terms are
18 defined in section 71-4603, which may exceed one hundred and two
19 inches if such excess width is attributable to an appurtenance that
20 extends no more than six inches beyond the body of the vehicle. For
21 purposes of this subdivision, the term appurtenance includes (i)
22 an awning and its support hardware and (ii) any appendage that is
23 intended to be an integral part of a motor home or travel trailer
24 and that is installed by the manufacturer or dealer. The term
25 appurtenance does not include any item that is temporarily affixed

1 or attached to the exterior of the motor home or travel trailer for
2 purposes of transporting the vehicular unit from one location to
3 another. Appurtenances shall not be considered in calculating the
4 gross trailer area as defined in section 71-4603.

5 (3) The Director-State Engineer, with respect to highways
6 under his or her jurisdiction, may designate certain highways upon
7 which vehicles of no more than ninety-six inches in width may be
8 permitted to travel. Highways so designated shall be limited to one
9 or more of the following:

- 10 (a) Highways with traffic lanes of ten feet or less;
11 (b) Highways upon which are located narrow bridges; and
12 (c) Highways which because of sight distance, surfacing,
13 unusual curves, topographic conditions, or other unusual
14 circumstances would not in the opinion of the Director-State
15 Engineer safely accommodate vehicles of more than ninety-six inches
16 in width.

17 Sec. 2. Section 60-6,289, Reissue Revised Statutes of
18 Nebraska, is amended to read:

19 60-6,289 (1) No vehicle unladen or with load shall exceed
20 a height of fourteen feet, six inches, except:

21 (a) Combines or vehicles used in transporting combines,
22 to be engaged in harvesting within or without the state, moving
23 into or through the state during daylight hours when the overall
24 height does not exceed fifteen feet, six inches;

25 (b) Livestock forage vehicles with or without load that

1 comply with subsection (2) of section 60-6,305;

2 (c) Farm equipment or implements of husbandry being
3 driven, picked up, or delivered during daylight hours by farm
4 equipment dealers shall not exceed fifteen feet, six inches;

5 (d) A ~~rubber-tired crane~~ Self-propelled specialized
6 mobile equipment with a fixed load when the requirements of
7 subdivision (2)(i) of section 60-6,288 are met; or

8 (e) Vehicles which have been issued a permit pursuant to
9 section 60-6,299.

10 (2) No person shall be required to raise, alter,
11 construct, or reconstruct any underpass, bridge, wire, or other
12 structure to permit the passage of any vehicle having a height,
13 unladen or with load, in excess of twelve feet, six inches. The
14 owners, lessees, and operators, jointly and severally, of vehicles
15 exceeding twelve feet, six inches, in height shall assume the risk
16 of loss to the vehicle or its load and shall be liable for any
17 damages that result to overhead obstructions from operation of a
18 vehicle exceeding twelve feet, six inches, in height.

19 Sec. 3. Section 60-6,290, Revised Statutes Cumulative
20 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

21 60-6,290 (1)(a) No vehicle shall exceed a length of
22 forty feet, extreme overall dimensions, inclusive of front and rear
23 bumpers including load, except that:

24 (i) A bus or a motor home, as defined in section 71-4603,
25 may exceed the forty-foot limitation but shall not exceed a length

1 of forty-five feet;

2 (ii) A truck-tractor may exceed the forty-foot
3 limitation;

4 (iii) A semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor single
5 semitrailer combination, which semitrailer was actually and
6 lawfully operating in the State of Nebraska on December 1, 1982,
7 may exceed the forty-foot limitation; and

8 (iv) A semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor single
9 semitrailer combination, which semitrailer was not actually and
10 lawfully operating in the State of Nebraska on December 1, 1982,
11 may exceed the forty-foot limitation but shall not exceed a length
12 of fifty-three feet including load.

13 (b) No combination of vehicles shall exceed a length of
14 sixty-five feet, extreme overall dimensions, inclusive of front and
15 rear bumpers and including load, except:

16 (i) One truck and one trailer, loaded or unloaded,
17 used in transporting implements of husbandry to be engaged in
18 harvesting, while being transported into or through the state
19 during daylight hours if the total length does not exceed
20 seventy-five feet including load;

21 (ii) A truck-tractor single semitrailer combination;

22 (iii) A truck-tractor semitrailer trailer combination,
23 but the semitrailer trailer portion of such combination shall not
24 exceed sixty-five feet inclusive of connective devices; and

25 (iv) A driveaway saddlemount vehicle transporter

1 combination and driveaway saddlemount with fullmount vehicle
2 transporter combination, but the total overall length shall not
3 exceed ninety-seven feet.

4 (c) A truck shall be construed to be one vehicle for the
5 purpose of determining length.

6 (d) A trailer shall be construed to be one vehicle for
7 the purpose of determining length.

8 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to:

9 (a) Extra-long vehicles which have been issued a permit
10 pursuant to section 60-6,292;

11 (b) Vehicles which have been issued a permit pursuant to
12 section 60-6,299;

13 (c) The temporary moving of farm machinery during
14 daylight hours in the normal course of farm operations;

15 (d) The movement of unbaled livestock forage vehicles,
16 loaded or unloaded;

17 (e) The movement of public utility or other construction
18 and maintenance material and equipment at any time;

19 (f) Farm equipment dealers hauling, driving, delivering,
20 or picking up farm equipment or implements of husbandry within the
21 county in which the dealer maintains his or her place of business,
22 or in any adjoining county or counties, and return;

23 (g) The overhang of any motor vehicle being hauled upon
24 any lawful combination of vehicles, but such overhang shall not
25 exceed the distance from the rear axle of the hauled motor vehicle

1 to the closest bumper thereof;

2 (h) The overhang of a combine to be engaged in
3 harvesting, while being transported into or through the state
4 driven during daylight hours by a truck-tractor semitrailer
5 combination, but the length of the semitrailer, including overhang,
6 shall not exceed sixty-three feet and the maximum semitrailer
7 length shall not exceed fifty-three feet;

8 (i) Any ~~rubber-tired crane~~ self-propelled specialized
9 mobile equipment with a fixed load when the requirements of
10 subdivision (2)(i) of section 60-6,288 are met; or

11 (j) One truck-tractor two trailer combination or one
12 truck-tractor semitrailer trailer combination used in transporting
13 equipment utilized by custom harvesters under contract to
14 agricultural producers to harvest wheat, soybeans, or milo
15 during the months of April through November but the length of
16 the property-carrying units, excluding load, shall not exceed
17 eighty-one feet six inches.

18 (3) The length limitations of this section shall be
19 exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices such as
20 rearview mirrors, turnsignal lights, marker lights, steps and
21 handholds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions,
22 mudflaps and splash and spray suppressant devices, load-induced
23 tire bulge, refrigeration units or air compressors, and other
24 devices necessary for safe and efficient operation of commercial
25 motor vehicles, except that no device excluded from the limitations

1 of this section shall have by its design or use the capability to
2 carry cargo.

3 Sec. 4. Section 60-6,294, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

5 60-6,294 (1) Every vehicle, whether operated singly or in
6 a combination of vehicles, and every combination of vehicles
7 shall comply with subsections (2) and (3) of this section
8 except as provided in sections 60-6,294.01 and 60-6,297. The
9 limitations imposed by this section shall be supplemental to all
10 other provisions imposing limitations upon the size and weight of
11 vehicles.

12 (2) No wheel of a vehicle or trailer equipped with
13 pneumatic or solid rubber tires shall carry a gross load in excess
14 of ten thousand pounds on any highway nor shall any axle carry
15 a gross load in excess of twenty thousand pounds on any highway.
16 An axle load shall be defined as the total load transmitted to
17 the highway by all wheels the centers of which may be included
18 between two parallel transverse vertical planes forty inches apart
19 extending across the full width of the vehicle.

20 (3) No group of two or more consecutive axles shall carry
21 a load in pounds in excess of the value given in the following
22 table corresponding to the distance in feet between the extreme
23 axles of the group, measured longitudinally to the nearest foot,
24 except that the maximum load carried on any group of two or more
25 axles shall not exceed eighty thousand pounds on the National

1 System of Interstate and Defense Highways unless the Director-State
 2 Engineer pursuant to section 60-6,295 authorizes a greater weight.

3 Distance in feet Maximum load in pounds carried
 4 between the on any group of two or more
 5 extremes of consecutive axles
 6 any group of
 7 two or more

8	consecutive	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven
9	axles	Axles	Axles	Axles	Axles	Axles	Axles
10	4	34,000					
11	5	34,000					
12	6	34,000					
13	7	34,000					
14	8	34,000	42,000				
15	9	39,000	42,500				
16	10	40,000	43,500				
17	11		44,000				
18	12		45,000	50,000			
19	13		45,500	50,500			
20	14		46,500	51,500			
21	15		47,000	52,000			
22	16		48,000	52,500	58,000		
23	17		48,500	53,500	58,500		
24	18		49,500	54,000	59,000		
25	19		50,000	54,500	60,000		
26	20		51,000	55,500	60,500		

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1	21	51,500	56,000	61,000		
2	22	52,500	56,500	61,500		
3	23	53,000	57,500	62,500		
4	24	54,000	58,000	63,000		
5	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	
6	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	
7	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	
8	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	
9	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	
10	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	
11	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	
12	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	
13	33		64,000	68,500	74,000	
14	34		64,500	69,000	74,500	
15	35		65,500	70,000	75,000	
16	36		66,000	70,500	75,500	
17	37		66,500	71,000	76,000	81,500
18	38		67,500	72,000	77,000	82,000
19	39		68,000	72,500	77,500	82,500
20	40		68,500	73,000	78,000	83,500
21	41		69,500	73,500	78,500	84,000
22	42		70,000	74,000	79,000	84,500
23	43		70,500	75,000	80,000	85,000
24	44		71,500	75,500	80,500	85,500
25	45		72,000	76,000	81,000	86,000
26	46		72,500	76,500	81,500	87,000

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1	47	73,500	77,500	82,000	87,500
2	48	74,000	78,000	83,000	88,000
3	49	74,500	78,500	83,500	88,500
4	50	75,500	79,000	84,000	89,000
5	51	76,000	80,000	84,500	89,500
6	52	76,500	80,500	85,000	90,500
7	53	77,500	81,000	86,000	91,000
8	54	78,000	81,500	86,500	91,500
9	55	78,500	82,500	87,000	92,000
10	56	79,500	83,000	87,500	92,500
11	57	80,000	83,500	88,000	93,000
12	58		84,000	89,000	94,000
13	59		85,000	89,500	94,500
14	60		85,500	90,000	95,000

15 (4) The distance between axles shall be measured to the
16 nearest foot. When a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the next
17 larger whole number shall be used, except that:

18 (a) Any group of three axles shall be restricted to a
19 maximum load of thirty-four thousand pounds unless the distance
20 between the extremes of the first and third axles is at least
21 ninety-six inches in fact; and

22 (b) The maximum gross load on any group of two axles,
23 the distance between the extremes of which is more than eight feet
24 but less than eight feet six inches, shall be thirty-eight thousand
25 pounds.

1 (5) The limitations of subsections (2) through (4) of
2 this section shall apply as stated to all main, rural, and
3 intercity highways but shall not be construed as inhibiting heavier
4 axle loads in metropolitan areas, except on the National System of
5 Interstate and Defense Highways, if such loads are not prohibited
6 by city ordinance.

7 (6) The weight limitations of wheel and axle loads as
8 defined in subsections (2) through (4) of this section shall be
9 restricted to the extent deemed necessary by the Department of
10 Roads for a reasonable period when road subgrades or pavements are
11 weak or are materially weakened by climatic conditions.

12 (7) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a
13 gross load of thirty-four thousand pounds each when the overall
14 distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets
15 of tandem axles is thirty-six, thirty-seven, or thirty-eight feet
16 except as provided in section 60-6,297. Such vehicles shall be
17 subject to section 60-6,301.

18 (8) If any vehicle crosses a bridge with a total gross
19 load in excess of the posted capacity of such bridge and as a
20 result of such crossing any damage results to the bridge, the owner
21 of such vehicle shall be responsible for all of such damage.

22 (9) Vehicles equipped with a greater number of axles than
23 provided in the tables in subsection (3) of this section shall be
24 legal if they do not exceed the maximum load upon any wheel or
25 axle, the maximum load upon any group of two or more consecutive

1 axles, and the total gross weight, or any of such weights as
2 provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

3 (10) Subsections (1) through (9) of this section shall
4 not apply to a vehicle which has been issued a permit pursuant to
5 section 60-6,299, a ~~rubber-tired crane~~ self-propelled specialized
6 mobile equipment with a fixed load when the requirements of
7 subdivision (2)(i) of section 60-6,288 are met, or an emergency
8 vehicle when the requirements of subdivision (1)(a)(v) of section
9 60-6,298 are met.

10 (11) Any two consecutive axles the centers of which are
11 more than forty inches and not more than ninety-six inches apart,
12 measured to the nearest inch between any two adjacent axles in
13 the series, shall be defined as tandem axles, and the gross weight
14 transmitted to the road surface through such series shall not
15 exceed thirty-four thousand pounds. No axle of the series shall
16 exceed the maximum weight permitted under this section for a single
17 axle.

18 (12) Dummy axles shall be disregarded in determining the
19 lawful weight of a vehicle or vehicle combination for operation on
20 the highway. Dummy axle shall mean an axle attached to a vehicle
21 or vehicle combination in a manner so that it does not articulate
22 or substantially equalize the load and does not carry at least
23 the lesser of eight thousand pounds or eight percent of the gross
24 weight of the vehicle or vehicle combination.

25 Sec. 5. Original sections 60-6,288 and 60-6,289, Reissue

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- 1 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-6,290 and 60-6,294,
- 2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006, are repealed.