

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 117**

Introduced by Harms, 48.

Read first time January 11, 2013

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Rules of the Road; to amend  
2 section 60-6,298, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
3 2012; to change provisions relating to permits for  
4 overweight vehicles; and to repeal the original section.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1. Section 60-6,298, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3                   60-6,298 (1)(a) The Department of Roads or the Nebraska  
4 State Patrol, with respect to highways under its jurisdiction  
5 including the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, and  
6 local authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction,  
7 may in their discretion upon application and good cause being shown  
8 therefor issue a special, continuing, or continuous permit in writing  
9 authorizing the applicant or his or her designee:

10                   (i) To operate or move a vehicle, a combination of  
11 vehicles, or objects of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding  
12 the maximum specified by law when such permit is necessary:

13                   (A) To further the national defense or the general  
14 welfare;

15                   (B) To permit movement of cost-saving equipment to be  
16 used in highway or other public construction or in agricultural land  
17 treatment; or

18                   (C) Because of an emergency, an unusual circumstance, or  
19 a very special situation;

20                   (ii) To operate vehicles, for a distance up to one  
21 hundred twenty miles, loaded up to fifteen percent greater than the  
22 maximum weight specified by law, or up to ten percent greater than  
23 the maximum length specified by law, or both, except that any  
24 combination with two or more cargo-carrying units, not including the  
25 truck-tractor, also known as a longer combination vehicle, may only

1 operate for a distance up to seventy miles loaded up to fifteen  
2 percent greater than the maximum weight specified by law, or up to  
3 ten percent greater than the maximum length specified by law, or  
4 both, when carrying grain or other seasonally harvested products from  
5 the field where such grain or products are harvested to storage,  
6 market, or stockpile in the field or from stockpile to market or  
7 factory when failure to move such grain or products in abundant  
8 quantities would cause an economic loss to the person or persons  
9 whose grain or products are being transported or when failure to move  
10 such grain or products in as large quantities as possible would not  
11 be in the best interests of the national defense or general welfare.  
12 The distance limitation may be waived for vehicles when carrying dry  
13 beans from the field where harvested to storage or market when dry  
14 beans are not normally stored, purchased, or used within the  
15 permittee's local area and must be transported more than one hundred  
16 twenty miles to an available marketing or storage destination. No  
17 permit shall authorize a weight greater than twenty thousand pounds  
18 on any single axle;

19 (iii) To transport an implement of husbandry which does  
20 not exceed twelve and one-half feet in width during daylight hours,  
21 except that the permit shall not allow transport on holidays;

22 (iv) To operate one or more recreational vehicles, as  
23 defined in section 71-4603, exceeding the maximum width specified by  
24 law if movement of the recreational vehicles is prior to retail sale  
25 and the recreational vehicles comply with subdivision (2)(k) of

1 section 60-6,288; or

2 (v) To operate an emergency vehicle for purposes of sale,  
3 demonstration, exhibit, or delivery, if the applicant or his or her  
4 designee is a manufacturer or sales agent of the emergency vehicle.  
5 No permit shall be issued for an emergency vehicle which weighs over  
6 sixty thousand pounds on the tandem axle.

7 (b) No permit shall be issued under subdivision (a)(i) of  
8 this subsection for a vehicle carrying a load unless such vehicle is  
9 loaded with an object which exceeds the size or weight limitations,  
10 which cannot be dismantled or reduced in size or weight without great  
11 difficulty, and which of necessity must be moved over the highways to  
12 reach its intended destination. No permit shall be required for the  
13 temporary movement on highways other than dustless-surfaced state  
14 highways and for necessary access to points on such highways during  
15 daylight hours of cost-saving equipment to be used in highway or  
16 other public construction or in agricultural land treatment when such  
17 temporary movement is necessary and for a reasonable distance.

18 (2) The application for any such permit shall  
19 specifically describe the vehicle, the load to be operated or moved,  
20 whenever possible the particular highways for which permit to operate  
21 is requested, and whether such permit is requested for a single trip  
22 or for continuous or continuing operation. The permit shall include a  
23 signed affirmation under oath that, for any load sixteen feet high or  
24 higher, the applicant has contacted any and all electric utilities  
25 that have high voltage conductors and infrastructure that cross over

1 the roadway affected by the move and made arrangements with such  
2 electric utilities for the safe movement of the load under any high  
3 voltage conductors owned by such electric utilities.

4 (3) The department or local authority is authorized to  
5 issue or withhold such permit at its discretion or, if such permit is  
6 issued, to limit the number of days during which the permit is valid,  
7 to limit the number of trips, to establish seasonal or other time  
8 limitations within which the vehicles described may be operated on  
9 the highways indicated, or to issue a continuous or continuing permit  
10 for use on all highways, including the National System of Interstate  
11 and Defense Highways. The permits are subject to reasonable  
12 conditions as to periodic renewal of such permit and as to operation  
13 or movement of such vehicles. The department or local authority may  
14 otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of such vehicle  
15 or vehicles, when necessary to assure against undue damage to the  
16 road foundations, surfaces, or structures or undue danger to the  
17 public safety. The department or local authority may require such  
18 undertaking or other security as may be deemed necessary to  
19 compensate for any injury to any roadway or road structure.

20 (4) Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle to  
21 which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any peace officer,  
22 carrier enforcement officer, or authorized agent of any authority  
23 granting such permit. Each such permit shall state the maximum weight  
24 permissible on a single axle or combination of axles and the total  
25 gross weight allowed. No person shall violate any of the terms or

1 conditions of such special permit. In case of any violation, the  
2 permit shall be deemed automatically revoked and the penalty of the  
3 original limitations shall be applied unless:

4 (a) The violation consists solely of exceeding the size  
5 or weight specified by the permit, in which case only the penalty of  
6 the original size or weight limitation exceeded shall be applied; or

7 (b) The total gross load is within the maximum authorized  
8 by the permit, no axle is more than ten percent in excess of the  
9 maximum load for such axle or group of axles authorized by the  
10 permit, and such load can be shifted to meet the weight limitations  
11 of wheel and axle loads authorized by such permit. Such shift may be  
12 made without penalty if it is made at the state or commercial scale  
13 designated in the permit. The vehicle may travel from its point of  
14 origin to such designated scale without penalty, and a scale ticket  
15 from such scale, showing the vehicle to be properly loaded and within  
16 the gross and axle weights authorized by the permit, shall be  
17 reasonable evidence of compliance with the terms of the permit.

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

22 (6) The department shall make available applications for  
23 permits authorized pursuant to subdivisions (1)(a)(ii) and (1)(a)  
24 (iii) of this section in the office of each county treasurer. The  
25 department may make available applications for all other permits

1 authorized by this section to the office of the county treasurer and  
2 may make available applications for all permits authorized by this  
3 section to any other location chosen by the department.

4 (7) The department or local authority issuing a permit  
5 may require a permit fee of not to exceed twenty-five dollars, except  
6 that:

7 (a) The fee for a continuous or continuing permit may not  
8 exceed twenty-five dollars for a ninety-day period, fifty dollars for  
9 a one-hundred-eighty-day period, or one hundred dollars for a one-  
10 year period; and

11 (b) The fee for permits issued pursuant to subdivision  
12 (1)(a)(ii) of this section shall be twenty-five dollars. Permits  
13 issued pursuant to such subdivision shall be valid for thirty days  
14 and shall be renewable ~~three~~four times for a total number of days  
15 not to exceed one hundred ~~twenty~~fifty days per calendar year.

16 A vehicle or combination of vehicles for which an  
17 application for a permit is requested pursuant to this section shall  
18 be registered under section 60-3,147 or 60-3,198 for the maximum  
19 gross vehicle weight that is permitted pursuant to section 60-6,294  
20 before a permit shall be issued.

21 Sec. 2. Original section 60-6,298, Revised Statutes  
22 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is repealed.