

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 27, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 12, 2012

SENATE BILL

No. 1174

Introduced by Senator Walters

(~~Coauthor:~~(*Coauthors: Senator Senators Emmerson and La Malfa*))

February 22, 2012

An act to amend Section 35401.5 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1174, as amended, Walters. Vehicles: length limitations: motorsports.

Existing law generally prohibits a vehicle from exceeding a length of 40 feet, and a combination of vehicles from exceeding a total length of 65 feet, with various specific exceptions. Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation or local authorities, with regard to highways under their respective jurisdiction, to issue a special permit authorizing the operation of a combination of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor semitrailer combination with a maximum length from kingpin to rearmost axle measurement of not more than 46 feet, if the trailers are used exclusively or primarily in connection with motorsports, as defined.

This bill would ~~revise the above provisions to allow the issuance of a special permit authorizing~~ *instead exempt, until January 1, 2016,* a combination of vehicles consisting of a ~~truck tractor semitrailer~~ *truck tractor semitrailer* combination with a kingpin to rearmost axle measurement limit of not more than 46 feet ~~and semitrailer,~~ *a trailer*

length of not more than 56 feet ~~for semitrailers~~, and used exclusively or primarily in connection with motorsports, as defined, *to operate on the National Network, transition routes, and well as on any other routes authorized for that purpose by the Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol.*

The bill would require the Department of Transportation to conduct a field test of the truck tractor semitrailer combination authorized under the bill for motorsport trucks with a trailer length of 56 feet to evaluate their performance on various segments of the National Network and transition routes. The bill would also require the Department of Transportation, no later than January 1, 2014, to submit a report to the Legislature that includes the results of the field test and a recommendation, in consultation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol, as to whether the 56 foot trailer length should be reauthorized.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 35401.5 of the Vehicle Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 35401.5. (a) A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck
- 4 tractor and semitrailer, or of a truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer,
- 5 is not subject to the limitations of Sections 35400 and 35401, when
- 6 operating on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of
- 7 Interstate and Defense Highways or when using those portions of
- 8 federal-aid primary system highways that have been qualified by
- 9 the United States Secretary of Transportation for that use, or when
- 10 using routes appropriately identified by the Department of
- 11 Transportation or local authorities as provided in subdivision (c)
- 12 or (d), if all of the following conditions are met:
- 13 (1) The length of the semitrailer in exclusive combination with
- 14 a truck tractor does not exceed 48 feet. A semitrailer not more than
- 15 53 feet in length shall satisfy this requirement when configured
- 16 with two or more rear axles, the rearmost of which is located 40
- 17 feet or less from the kingpin or when configured with a single axle
- 18 which is located 38 feet or less from the kingpin. For purposes of
- 19 this paragraph, a motortruck used in combination with a semitrailer,
- 20 when that combination of vehicles is engaged solely in the

1 transportation of motor vehicles, camper units, or boats, is
2 considered to be a truck tractor.

3 (2) Neither the length of the semitrailer nor the length of the
4 trailer when simultaneously in combination with a truck tractor
5 exceeds 28 feet 6 inches.

6 (b) Subdivisions (b), (d), and (e) of Section 35402 do not apply
7 to combinations of vehicles operated subject to the exemptions
8 provided by this section.

9 (c) Combinations of vehicles operated pursuant to subdivision
10 (a) may also use highways not specified in subdivision (a) that
11 provide reasonable access to terminals and facilities for purposes
12 limited to fuel, food, lodging, and repair when that access is
13 consistent with the safe operation of the combinations of vehicles
14 and when the facility is within one road mile of identified points
15 of ingress and egress to or from highways specified in subdivision
16 (a) for use by those combinations of vehicles.

17 (d) The Department of Transportation or local authorities may
18 establish a process whereby access to terminals or services may
19 be applied for upon a route not previously established as an access
20 route. The denial of a request for access to terminals and services
21 shall be only on the basis of safety and an engineering analysis of
22 the proposed access route. If a written request for access has been
23 properly submitted and has not been acted upon within 90 days of
24 receipt by the department or the appropriate local agency, the
25 access shall be deemed automatically approved. Thereafter, the
26 route shall be deemed open for access by all other vehicles of the
27 same type regardless of ownership. In lieu of processing an access
28 application, the Department of Transportation or local authorities
29 with respect to highways under their respective jurisdictions may
30 provide signing, mapping, or a listing of highways as necessary
31 to indicate the use of specific routes as terminal access routes. For
32 purposes of this subdivision, “terminal” means either of the
33 following:

34 (1) A facility where freight originates, terminates, or is handled
35 in the transportation process.

36 (2) A facility where a motor carrier maintains operating
37 facilities.

38 (e) Nothing in subdivision (c) or (d) authorizes state or local
39 agencies to require permits of terminal operators or to charge

1 terminal operators fees for the purpose of attaining access for
2 vehicles described in this section.

3 (f) Notwithstanding subdivision (d), the limitations of access
4 specified in that subdivision do not apply to licensed carriers of
5 household goods when directly enroute to or from a point of
6 loading or unloading of household goods, if travel on highways
7 other than those specified in subdivision (a) is necessary and
8 incidental to the shipment of the household goods.

9 (g) (1) Notwithstanding Sections 35400 and 35401, ~~the~~
10 ~~Department of Transportation or local authorities, with regard to~~
11 ~~the highways under their respective jurisdictions, may, upon~~
12 ~~application, issue a special permit authorizing the applicant to~~
13 ~~operate a combination of vehicles consisting of a truck~~
14 ~~tractor-semitrailer tractor semitrailer combination with a kingpin~~
15 ~~to rearmost axle measurement limit of not more than 46 feet and~~
16 ~~semitrailer, a trailer length of not more than 56 feet for~~
17 ~~semitrailer, and used exclusively or primarily in connection with~~
18 ~~motorsports, may operate on the routes identified in subdivision~~
19 ~~(a) as well as on any other routes authorized for that purpose by~~
20 ~~the Department of Transportation in consultation with the~~
21 ~~Department of the California Highway Patrol. As used in this~~
22 ~~subdivision, "motorsports" means an event, and all activities~~
23 ~~leading up to that event, including, but not limited to,~~
24 ~~administration, testing, practice, promotion, and merchandising,~~
25 ~~that is sanctioned under the auspices of the member organizations~~
26 ~~of the Automobile Competition Committee for the United States.~~

27 ~~(2) A local authority, as a condition of issuing a special permit~~
28 ~~under this subdivision, may establish reasonable controls on the~~
29 ~~allowable hours of operation of those semitrailers that are~~
30 ~~authorized to operate under this subdivision.~~

31 (2) (A) *The Department of Transportation shall conduct a field*
32 *test of the tractor truck semitrailer combination authorized under*
33 *paragraph (1) for motorsport trucks with a trailer length of 56*
34 *feet to evaluate their performance on various segments of the*
35 *National Network and transition routes. The Department of*
36 *Transportation shall, no later than January 1, 2014, submit a*
37 *report to the Legislature in compliance with Section 9795 of the*
38 *Government Code that includes the results of the field test and a*
39 *recommendation, in consultation with the Department of the*

1 *California Highway Patrol, as to whether the 56 foot trailer length*
2 *should be reauthorized.*

3 *(B) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code,*
4 *the requirement for submitting a report under this paragraph is*
5 *inoperative on January 1, 2018.*

6 *(3) This subdivision shall remain in effect only until January 1,*
7 *2016, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*
8 *that is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that*
9 *date.*

10 (h) The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

11 (1) In authorizing the use of 53-foot semitrailers, it is the intent
12 of the Legislature to conform with Section 31111(b)(1)(C) of Title
13 49 of the United States Code by permitting the continued use of
14 semitrailers of the dimensions as those that were in actual and legal
15 use on December 1, 1982, and does not intend this action to be a
16 precedent for future increases in the parameters of any of those
17 vehicles that would adversely affect the turning maneuverability
18 of vehicle combinations.

19 (2) In authorizing the department to issue special transportation
20 permits for motorsports, it is the intent of the Legislature to
21 conform with Section 31111(b)(1)(F) of Title 49 of the United
22 States Code. It is also the intent of the Legislature that this action
23 not be a precedent for future increases in the distance from the
24 kingpin to the rearmost axle of semitrailers and trailers that would
25 adversely affect the turning maneuverability of vehicle
26 combinations.

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29 **CORRECTIONS:**

30 **Authors— Line 2.**

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