

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 538

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

February 16, 2011

An act to add Section 35412 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 538, as introduced, Williams. Vehicles: commercial vehicles: length restrictions: State Route 33.

(1) Existing law prohibits any combination of vehicles coupled together, including any attachments, from exceeding a total length of 65 feet, with certain, specified exceptions. Existing law authorizes a city or county, by ordinance, to prohibit a combination of vehicles of a total length in excess of 60 feet upon highways under its respective jurisdiction, as specified. Existing law allows a combination of vehicles to be operated with a kingpin-to-rearmost-axle measurement of greater than 38 feet but not more than 40 feet on those highways under the jurisdiction of local authorities only where it is deemed to be safe by the owner of the vehicle or the person operating the vehicle and where its operation is not specifically prohibited by local ordinance. A violation of the Vehicle Code is a crime.

This bill would prohibit a person from driving a commercial vehicle with a kingpin-to-rearmost-axle length in excess of 30 feet on the segment of State Route 33 (SR-33) that is located between the county boundary delineating the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura and the Camino Cielo Road near the City of Ojai.

The bill would require a person who violates this provision to be punished, upon conviction, by a specified fine based on the weight of the vehicle or \$1,000, whichever is greater. Because the bill would

create a new crime, it would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would also require the Department of Transportation to erect suitable signs at each end of the portion of SR-33, as specified above, and any other points that the department deems necessary to give adequate notice of the prohibition.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 35412 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
2 read:
3 35412. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a person
4 shall not drive a commercial vehicle with a
5 kingpin-to-rearmost-axle length in excess of 30 feet on the segment
6 of State Route 33 (SR-33) that is located between the county
7 boundary delineating the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura
8 and the Camino Cielo Road near the City of Ojai.
9 (b) Subdivision (a) does not apply to any of the following
10 vehicles:
11 (1) An authorized emergency vehicle.
12 (2) A vehicle operated by a publicly or privately owned public
13 utility.
14 (3) A vehicle operated by a government agency.
15 (4) A tow truck providing assistance to a vehicle that is
16 accessible only from that portion of SR-33 specified in subdivision
17 (a).
18 (5) A commercial vehicle involved in a motion picture,
19 commercial, or television production conducting motion picture,
20 commercial, or television production activities in areas that are
21 accessible only from that portion of SR-33 specified in subdivision
22 (a).
23 (c) A person who violates this section shall, upon conviction,
24 be punished by a fine pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 42030
25 or one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whichever is greater.

1 (d) The Department of Transportation shall erect suitable signs
2 at each end of the portion of SR-33 specified in subdivision (a)
3 and any other points that the department deems necessary to give
4 adequate notice of the prohibition pursuant to this section.

5 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
6 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
7 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
8 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
9 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
10 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
11 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
12 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
13 Constitution.