

House File 2428 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2428

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2282)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to escort and permit requirements for the
- 2 movement of certain vehicles and combinations of vehicles of
- 3 excessive size.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321E.1, subsection 1, Code 2011, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The department and local authorities may in their
4 discretion and upon application and with good cause being shown
5 issue permits for the movement of construction machinery or
6 asphalt repavers being temporarily moved on streets, roads,
7 or highways and for vehicles with indivisible loads which
8 exceed the maximum dimensions and weights specified in sections
9 321.452 through 321.466, but not to exceed the limitations
10 imposed in this section and sections 321E.2 through 321E.15
11 except as provided in ~~section~~ sections 321E.8B and 321E.29.

12 Sec. 2. Section 321E.2, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 1. Annual, multi-trip, and single-trip permits shall be
15 issued by the authority responsible for the maintenance of
16 the system of highways or streets. However, the department
17 may issue permits on primary road extensions in cities in
18 conjunction with movements on the rural primary road system.
19 The department may issue an all-system permit under section
20 321E.8 which is valid for movements on all highways or streets
21 under the jurisdiction of either the state or those local
22 authorities which have indicated in writing to the department
23 those streets or highways for which an all-system permit is
24 not valid. The department may issue annual permits pursuant
25 to section 321E.8A valid only for operation on noninterstate
26 highways in counties stipulated in the permit. The department
27 may issue an annual permit under section 321E.8B which is valid
28 for movements on highways or streets that are not part of the
29 national network of highways identified pursuant to 23 C.F.R.
30 pt. 658 and are under the jurisdiction of either the state or
31 those local authorities that have indicated in writing to the
32 department those streets or highways for which an all-system
33 permit is not valid.

34 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 321E.8B Vehicle combinations with
35 divisible loads — annual permit.

1 The department may issue an annual permit for a truck
2 tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination or a truck
3 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination carrying a divisible
4 load and having an overall length not to exceed one hundred ten
5 feet and with each trailer in the combination having an overall
6 length not to exceed forty-five feet; an overall width not to
7 exceed sixteen feet; an overall height not to exceed seventeen
8 feet four inches; and a total gross weight not to exceed eighty
9 thousand pounds; provided that the gross weight on any one
10 axle does not exceed the maximum prescribed in section 321.463
11 and the load carried on each semitrailer or trailer is an
12 indivisible load. A permit issued under this section shall
13 allow travel only on highways that are not part of the national
14 network of highways identified pursuant to 23 C.F.R. pt. 658.
15 The length limitations specified for a permit issued under this
16 section apply for the purpose of picking up a divisible load
17 and returning from delivery of the divisible load.

18 Sec. 4. Section 321E.14, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 1. The department or local authorities issuing permits
21 shall charge a fee of twenty-five dollars for an annual permit
22 issued under section 321E.8, subsection 1, a fee of three
23 hundred dollars for an annual permit issued under section
24 321E.8, subsection 2, a fee of two hundred dollars for a
25 multi-trip permit issued under section 321E.9A, a fee of six
26 hundred dollars for a special alternative energy multi-trip
27 permit issued under section 321E.9B, and a fee of ten dollars
28 for a single-trip permit, and shall determine charges for
29 permits issued pursuant to section 321E.8B and special permits
30 issued pursuant to section 321E.29 by rules adopted pursuant
31 to chapter 17A. Fees for the movement of buildings, parts of
32 buildings, or unusual vehicles or loads may be increased to
33 cover the costs of inspections by the issuing authority. A fee
34 not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars per day or a prorated
35 fraction of that fee per person and car for escort service may

1 be charged when requested or when required under this chapter.
2 Proration of escort fees between state and local authorities
3 when more than one governmental authority provides or is
4 required to provide escort for a movement during the period of
5 a day shall be determined by rule under section 321E.15. The
6 department and local authorities may charge a permit applicant
7 for the cost of trimming trees and removal and replacement
8 of natural obstructions or official signs and signals or
9 other public or private property required to be removed
10 during the movement of a vehicle and load. In addition to the
11 fees provided in this section, the annual fee for a permit
12 for special mobile equipment, as defined in section 321.1,
13 subsection 75, operated pursuant to section 321E.7, subsection
14 3, with a combined gross weight up to and including eighty
15 thousand pounds shall be twenty-five dollars and for a combined
16 gross weight exceeding eighty thousand pounds, fifty dollars.

17 Sec. 5. Section 321E.34, subsection 2, Code 2011, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 2. a. Vehicles under permit, the width of which, including
20 any load, exceeds that prescribed in section 321.454 but does
21 not exceed fourteen feet six inches including appurtenances,
22 may be moved on two-lane highways of this state without an
23 escort if the highway being traversed has a minimum lane width
24 of twelve feet and a sufficient shoulder width and if an amber
25 revolving light or strobe light is displayed on the power unit
26 and on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load. ~~In addition,~~
27 ~~vehicles~~

28 b. Vehicles moving under permit, including any load, with
29 an overall width not exceeding sixteen feet six inches may
30 be moved on an interstate or four-lane highway of this state
31 without an escort if an amber revolving light or strobe light
32 is displayed on the power unit and on the rear extremity of the
33 vehicle or load.

34 c. The department may in its discretion allow a vehicle
35 moving under permit with a width not exceeding sixteen feet

1 zero inches, including any load, to be moved on a two-lane
2 highway without an escort if the highway being traversed has
3 a minimum lane width of twelve feet and a sufficient shoulder
4 width and if an amber revolving light or strobe light is
5 displayed on the power unit and on the rear extremity of the
6 vehicle or load.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill provides for the issuance of an annual oversize
9 vehicle permit for the movement of certain combinations of
10 vehicles carrying a divisible load. Currently, oversize
11 vehicle permits are only issued for vehicles carrying
12 indivisible loads, except under special or emergency
13 circumstances.

14 The bill authorizes the department of transportation
15 to issue an annual all-system permit for a truck
16 tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer or a truck
17 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination of vehicles carrying
18 a divisible load to travel on certain roads which are not part
19 of the national network. The combination of vehicles cannot
20 exceed 110 feet in overall length, 16 feet in overall width, 17
21 feet 4 inches in overall height, and 80,000 pounds in gross
22 weight and must comply with statutory axle weight limits. Each
23 semitrailer or trailer in the combination of vehicles may be up
24 to 45 feet in length, and the load on each individual trailer
25 must be indivisible. The permit allows the combination of
26 vehicles to make a return trip unladen. The bill specifies
27 that the fee for the annual permit shall be established by the
28 department by rule.

29 Under current Iowa law, vehicle size limits are established
30 in compliance with limits established by the federal highway
31 administration for vehicles traveling on the national network
32 of highways. The national network is made up of interstate
33 highways and designated portions of the federal-aid primary
34 system. The length limit for a semitrailer or trailer in a
35 truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination or a truck

1 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination is 28 feet 6 inches.
2 In order to comply with the federal limit on trailer length,
3 a permit issued under the bill allows travel only on highways
4 that are not part of the national network. State permits for
5 loads exceeding the established federal width limit of 102
6 inches are permissible under federal law.

7 Current law requires the use of escort vehicles to accompany
8 certain vehicles of excessive size and weight. A vehicle with
9 a width in excess of 14 feet 6 inches, including any load or
10 appurtenances, is required to have an escort when moved on
11 a two-lane highway. An escort is not required for movement
12 of a vehicle with a width not exceeding 16 feet 6 inches on
13 a four-lane highway or an interstate, provided that an amber
14 revolving light or strobe light is displayed on the power unit
15 and on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load. This bill
16 allows the department to waive the escort requirement for a
17 vehicle with a width not exceeding 16 feet to be moved on a
18 two-lane highway that has a minimum lane width of 12 feet and
19 a sufficient shoulder width. The vehicle must have an amber
20 revolving light or strobe light displayed on the power unit and
21 on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load.