

House Study Bill 525 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON BEST)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act removing the requirement to obtain a permit for vehicles
2 or combinations of vehicles of excessive size transporting
3 divisible loads of hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock
4 bedding that meet certain width, height, and length
5 requirements.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.454, Code 2020, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **321.454 Width of vehicles.**

4 1. The total outside width of a vehicle or the load on
5 the vehicle shall not exceed eight feet six inches. ~~This~~
6 ~~limitation on the total outside width of a vehicle or the load~~
7 ~~on the vehicle does not include safety equipment on a vehicle~~
8 ~~or incidental appurtenances or retracted awnings on motor~~
9 ~~homes, motorsports recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or~~
10 ~~fifth-wheel travel trailers if the incidental appurtenance or~~
11 ~~retracted awning is less than six inches in width.~~

12 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the total outside width of
13 a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting a divisible
14 load of hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding shall
15 not exceed twelve feet five inches. However, if hay, straw, ~~or~~
16 stover, or bagged livestock bedding is moved on an implement
17 of husbandry and the total width of load of the implement
18 of husbandry exceeds ~~eight feet six inches~~ twelve feet five
19 inches, the implement of husbandry is not subject to the
20 permit requirements of [chapter 321E](#). If a divisible load of
21 hay, straw, ~~or~~ stover, or bagged livestock bedding is moved
22 on any other vehicle or combination of vehicles subject to
23 registration, the moves are subject to the permit requirements
24 for transporting loads exceeding ~~eight feet six inches~~ twelve
25 feet five inches in width as required under [chapter 321E](#).

26 3. The limitations on the total outside width of a vehicle,
27 the load on the vehicle, or a combination of vehicles set forth
28 in this section do not include safety equipment on a vehicle
29 or incidental appurtenances or retracted awnings on motor
30 homes, motorsports recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or
31 fifth-wheel travel trailers if the incidental appurtenance or
32 retracted awning is less than six inches in width.

33 Sec. 2. Section 321.456, Code 2020, is amended to read as
34 follows:

35 **321.456 Height of vehicles.**

1 the department of transportation or permit-issuing authority.
2 However, an annual permit is available for vehicles or
3 combinations of vehicles transporting divisible loads of hay,
4 straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding in excess of the
5 width, length, or height restrictions of Code chapter 321
6 without a finding of a special or emergency situation if the
7 vehicle or combination of vehicles meets certain width, length,
8 and height requirements. Current law also provides that
9 implements of husbandry transporting hay, straw, or stover are
10 not subject to the permit requirements of Code chapter 321E due
11 to the width of the vehicle.

12 This bill eliminates the annual permit allowing a vehicle or
13 combination of vehicles transporting a divisible load of hay,
14 straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding in excess of the
15 width, length, or height restrictions of Code chapter 321 to be
16 moved on highways without a finding of a special or emergency
17 situation. Instead, the bill increases the width, length,
18 and height restrictions of Code chapter 321 for vehicles or
19 combinations of vehicles transporting divisible loads of hay,
20 straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding. Under the bill,
21 vehicles and combinations of vehicles transporting divisible
22 loads of hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding are
23 allowed to be moved on highways so long as such vehicles do
24 not have an overall width exceeding 12 feet 5 inches, an
25 overall length not exceeding 75 feet, and an overall height
26 not exceeding 14 feet 6 inches. A violation of the width,
27 length, and height restrictions of Code chapter 321 is a simple
28 misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled fine of \$200.