

House File 2536 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2536

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 655)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act allowing vehicles transporting certain agricultural
2 commodities on noninterstate highways to exceed maximum
3 gross weight limits, and making penalties applicable.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.463, Code 2022, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. *a.* A vehicle or combination of
4 vehicles transporting corn, soybeans, hay, straw, silage,
5 stover, manure, or agricultural chemicals as defined in section
6 570A.1, and which is operating on a highway that is not part of
7 the interstate road system, may exceed the legal maximum gross
8 weight otherwise allowed under this chapter by up to twelve
9 and one-half percent, not to exceed ninety thousand pounds, if
10 the gross weight on any one axle does not exceed the limits
11 allowed under this chapter and if the vehicle or combination
12 of vehicles complies with all posted weight limits on highways
13 and bridges.

14 *b.* If a vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds the
15 twelve and one-half percent tolerance allowed under this
16 subsection, the fine shall be computed based on the difference
17 between the actual weight and the twelve and one-half percent
18 tolerance weight allowed.

19 *c.* This subsection does not apply to vehicles or
20 combinations of vehicles authorized to have a maximum gross
21 weight in excess of ninety thousand pounds under subsection 6,
22 paragraph "c".

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 Current law limits the maximum gross weight of a vehicle
27 based on the number of axles and the distance between the
28 axles on the vehicle. The department of transportation and
29 local authorities may issue certain permits for vehicles
30 which exceed the maximum allowable gross weights. This bill
31 makes permanent certain directives ordered by governors in
32 proclamations issued during the harvest season suspending
33 certain regulatory provisions relating to the gross weight of
34 vehicles transporting agricultural commodities. The bill adds
35 manure and agricultural chemicals to the list of applicable

1 agricultural commodities.

2 The bill allows vehicles transporting corn, soybeans, hay,
3 straw, silage, stover, manure, or agricultural chemicals on
4 noninterstate highways to exceed the legal maximum gross weight
5 otherwise allowed by up to 12.5 percent, not to exceed 90,000
6 pounds. By operation of law, an eligible vehicle that exceeds
7 the maximum gross weight otherwise allowed by up to 12.5
8 percent is not required to have a special permit. However,
9 eligible vehicles must not exceed the gross weight limit on
10 any one axle and must comply with all posted weight limits on
11 highways and bridges. Current law allows certain seven-axle
12 commercial motor vehicles to have a maximum gross weight over
13 90,000 pounds on noninterstate highways. Such vehicles are
14 excluded from the provisions of the bill.

15 A vehicle that exceeds the 12.5 percent tolerance is subject
16 to a scheduled fine based on the difference between the actual
17 weight and the 12.5 percent tolerance weight. The scheduled
18 fine ranges from \$12 to \$2,200 plus 10 cents per pound in
19 excess of 20,000 pounds over the limit.