

**House Study Bill 655 - Introduced**

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

**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, or manure, and which is operating on a highway that is  
6 not part of the interstate road system, may exceed the legal  
7 maximum gross weight otherwise allowed under this chapter by up  
8 to twelve and one-half percent, not to exceed ninety thousand  
9 pounds, if the gross weight on any one axle does not exceed  
10 the limits allowed under this chapter and if the vehicle or  
11 combination of vehicles complies with all posted weight limits  
12 on highways and bridges.

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

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

22 EXPLANATION

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

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

35 The bill allows vehicles transporting corn, soybeans, hay,

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

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