

House Study Bill 46 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to single-trip permits for vehicles of
2 excessive size and weight during special or emergency
3 situations.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321E.9, subsection 2, Code 2023, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. Vehicles with indivisible loads may be moved in special
4 or emergency situations, provided the permit-issuing authority
5 has reviewed the route and has approved the movement of the
6 vehicle and load.

7 a. The permit-issuing authority may impose any special
8 restrictions on movements as deemed necessary or exempt
9 movements from the restrictions of ~~section~~ sections 321E.7,
10 321E.11, and 321E.32 by permit under this subsection.

11 b. When the department determines a special or emergency
12 situation exists, the combined gross weight or gross weight on
13 any one axle or group of axles on a vehicle or combination of
14 vehicles issued a permit under this subsection may exceed the
15 maximum weights specified in section 321.463, subject to the
16 limits and routes established by the permit-issuing authority.

17 EXPLANATION

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

20 Under current law, the department of transportation (DOT)
21 and local authorities are authorized to issue permits for
22 the movement of vehicles that exceed the dimensions and
23 weight limits established in Code chapter 321 (motor vehicles
24 and law of the road). One such authorization allows the
25 DOT and local authorities to issue single-trip permits for
26 vehicles with indivisible loads to be moved during special
27 or emergency situations. Vehicles operating under such a
28 permit may have a maximum load of 20,000 pounds per axle (Code
29 section 321.463(3)), or 46,000 pounds on a single tandem axle
30 of a truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer if each axle
31 of each tandem group has at least four tires (Code section
32 321E.7(1)(e)). The fee for a single-trip permit is \$35. The
33 permit-issuing authority has discretion to impose any necessary
34 special restrictions on movements or exempt movements from date
35 and time restrictions established under Code section 321E.11.

1 This bill authorizes the DOT and local authorities to also
2 exempt holders of such permits from load limits per axle
3 (Code section 321E.7) and axle calculations based on the use
4 of certain dolly axles (Code section 321E.32). When the DOT
5 determines a special or emergency situation exists, the bill
6 also authorizes the combined gross weight or gross weight on
7 any one axle or group of axles to exceed the limits established
8 in Code section 321.463, subject to the limits and routes
9 established by the single-trip permit-issuing authority.