

House File 394 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to certain state highways not designated
2 as part of the interstate road system, including the
3 operation of implements of husbandry on such highways, making
4 appropriations, and including applicability provisions.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **314.16A Interstate road designation**
2 **— prohibition.**

3 The department of transportation and the state transportation
4 commission shall not pursue an interstate road designation for
5 the segment of highway that is a controlled-access facility,
6 as defined in section 306A.2, designated as state highway
7 5 and United States highway 65, including where the highway
8 designations overlap, between interstate 35 and interstate 80,
9 unless the United States government provides an exemption to
10 federal regulations regarding vehicle weight and size on that
11 segment. The federal exemption must authorize any vehicle that
12 is not prohibited from being operated on the segment prior to
13 the date of designation as an interstate road to continue to be
14 operated on the segment after designation as an interstate road.

15 Sec. 2. Section 321.285, subsection 5, paragraph e, Code
16 2025, is amended to read as follows:

17 e. (1) Any kind of A vehicle, device, implement, or
18 conveyance incapable of attaining and maintaining a speed of
19 forty miles per hour shall be prohibited from using the
20 interstate road system.

21 (2) This paragraph does not apply to an implement of
22 husbandry that a person is authorized to operate on the segment
23 of United States highway 65, and state highway 5, including
24 where the highway designations overlap, between the highway's
25 intersection with United States highway 6 and the highway's
26 intersection with United States highway 69, or farther west
27 if authorized by the department, prior to the date that
28 segment of highway is designated a part of the interstate
29 road system, if the segment of highway is designated a part
30 of the interstate road system. The department may authorize
31 an implement of husbandry to be operated on a segment of the
32 highway described above farther west beyond the intersection
33 with United States highway 69. This subparagraph is repealed
34 on the date an alternative route for implements of husbandry is
35 developed, deemed suitable by the department of transportation

1 in consultation with the department of agriculture and land
2 stewardship, and opened for traffic to bypass the segment of
3 the interstate road system described in this subparagraph. The
4 department of transportation shall notify the Iowa Code editor on
5 that date.

6 Sec. 3. ALTERNATIVE HIGHWAY STUDY — APPROPRIATION. There is
7 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the department
8 of transportation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and
9 ending June 30, 2026, the following amount, or so much thereof as
10 is necessary, for the department to conduct an alternative
11 highway study to develop and implement an accessible highway
12 route suitable for implements of husbandry to be operated
13 alongside, but not directly on, the segment of United States
14 highway 65, and state highway 5, including where the highway
15 designations overlap, between United States highway 6 and United
16 States highway 69:

17 \$ 250,000

18 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to the segment of
19 the highway known as United States highway 65, and state highway
20 5, including where the highway designations overlap, described
21 in this Act on the effective date of this Act, and shall apply
22 to that segment of the highway thereafter regardless of whether
23 the highway's designation as United States highway 65, or state
24 highway 5, including where the highway designations overlap,
25 is subsequently changed by the state transportation commission,
26 department of transportation, or the government of the United
27 States.

28 EXPLANATION

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

31 Under current law, any kind of vehicle, implement, or
32 conveyance incapable of attaining and maintaining a speed of 40
33 miles per hour (MPH) is prohibited from using the interstate road
34 system.

35 This bill provides a conditional exception to that

1 prohibition. If an implement of husbandry may be operated
2 on the segment of the highway known as U.S. highway 65, and
3 state highway 5, including where the highway designations overlap
4 (segment), between the highway's intersection with U.S. highway 6
5 and the highway's intersection with U.S. highway 69, prior to the
6 date the segment becomes part of the interstate road system, then
7 the implement of husbandry may continue to be operated on that
8 segment until an alternative route for implements of husbandry
9 is made available. The department of transportation (DOT) may
10 authorize an implement of husbandry to be operated on the segment
11 farther west beyond the intersection with U.S. highway 69.

12 Under current law, an "implement of husbandry" means a
13 vehicle or special mobile equipment manufactured, designed,
14 or reconstructed for agricultural purposes and, except for
15 incidental uses, is exclusively used in the conduct of
16 agricultural operations. To be considered an implement of
17 husbandry, a self-propelled qualifying vehicle must be operated
18 at speeds of 35 MPH or less.

19 The bill prohibits the DOT and the state transportation
20 commission from pursuing an interstate road designation for
21 the segment extending between the segment's intersections with
22 interstate 35 and interstate 80 unless the U.S. government
23 provides an exemption from federal regulations regarding vehicle
24 weight and size on that segment, as described in the bill.

25 The bill appropriates moneys from the general fund of the
26 state to the DOT to conduct an alternative highway study to
27 develop and implement an accessible alternative highway route
28 suitable for implements of husbandry.

29 The bill applies to the segment on the effective date of the
30 bill, and will continue to apply to the segment regardless of
31 whether the highway's designation is subsequently changed.