

House File 529 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 529
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 134)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the maximum weight of vehicles powered
2 primarily by natural gas or electric battery, and making
3 penalties applicable.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 321.463, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
4 a motor vehicle equipped with an engine fueled primarily by
5 natural gas or a motor vehicle powered primarily by means of
6 electric battery power may exceed any applicable maximum gross
7 weight limit under this chapter, up to a maximum gross weight of
8 eighty-two thousand pounds, ~~by an amount equal to the difference~~
9 ~~between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas~~
10 ~~tank and fueling system installed in the vehicle and the weight~~
11 ~~of a comparable diesel fuel tank and fueling system.~~

12 EXPLANATION

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

15 Current law limits the maximum gross weight of a vehicle based
16 on the highway on which the vehicle is operated and the number
17 of axles and the distance between the axles on the vehicle.
18 Generally, the maximum gross weight of a vehicle, including
19 combinations of vehicles, is 80,000 pounds when operated on a
20 highway in Iowa. Certain exceptions exist including but not
21 limited to specially permitted vehicles and vehicles with six or
22 seven axles while operated on noninterstate highways.

23 Additionally, a motor vehicle equipped with an engine fueled
24 primarily by natural gas may exceed the standard weight limit
25 and is authorized to weigh up to 82,000 pounds, as long as
26 the vehicle's excessive weight equals the difference between
27 the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank
28 and fueling system installed in the vehicle and the weight of
29 a comparable diesel fuel tank and fueling system. This bill
30 strikes the requirement that the excessive weight be attributable
31 to the power unit substitution and instead authorizes all such
32 vehicles to weigh up to 82,000 pounds.

33 The bill likewise authorizes a motor vehicle primarily powered
34 by means of electric battery power to exceed any applicable gross
35 weight limit, up to 82,000 pounds.

1 A vehicle that exceeds the allowable weight based on its
2 number of axles and the distance between the axles is subject
3 to a scheduled fine. The scheduled fine ranges from \$12 to
4 \$2,200 plus 10 cents per pound in excess of 20,000 pounds over
5 the limit.

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