

**House File 979 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 979  
BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 696)  
(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 202)

(COMPANION TO SF 390 BY COMMITTEE  
ON TRANSPORTATION)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to vehicles operating with a permit for excessive  
2 size or weight, and providing fees.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321E.3, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. (1) The department may issue all-systems permits under  
4 section 321E.8 which are valid for movement on all ~~paved highways~~  
5 ~~or streets~~ primary roads and secondary roads, including roads  
6 designated by a local authority as a truck route, except the  
7 interstate road system if prohibited under section 321E.8,  
8 and except any ~~highways or streets under the jurisdiction of~~  
9 ~~local authorities upon which an all-systems permit is~~ road  
10 designated by the applicable local authority as not valid as  
11 determined by the applicable local authority for use by permitted  
12 vehicles if the local authority ~~indicates such highways and~~  
13 ~~streets~~ communicates the not-valid designation to the department  
14 in writing, including by means of electronic communication.  
15 However, all roads designated as not valid are subject to review  
16 by the department, and a local authority shall not determine  
17 that any paved farm-to-market road, or ~~highway or street~~ road  
18 designated as a truck route, is not valid for purposes of an  
19 all-systems permit without justification. A ~~highway or street~~  
20 ~~under the jurisdiction of a local authority upon which movement~~  
21 ~~under an all-systems permit is valid shall connect with a highway~~  
22 ~~or street under the jurisdiction of the state, or with another~~  
23 ~~highway or street upon which movement under an all-systems permit~~  
24 ~~is valid that ultimately connects with a highway or street under~~  
25 ~~the jurisdiction of the state.~~

26 (2) A local authority that ~~indicates~~ determines a ~~highway or~~  
27 ~~street, including a paved farm-to-market road, secondary road,~~  
28 ~~or road designated as a truck route upon which an all-systems~~  
29 ~~permit is not valid under subparagraph (1) shall provide a~~  
30 written justification report to the department explaining the  
31 local authority's determination in accordance with subparagraph  
32 (1). If the department disagrees with the local authority's  
33 determination, the dispute shall be resolved in accordance with  
34 ~~chapter 17A~~ rules adopted by the department.

35 (3) ~~Notwithstanding a local authority's determination under~~

1 ~~this paragraph, a person who is issued an all-systems permit may~~  
2 ~~operate a permitted vehicle over the most direct route between~~  
3 ~~the location where the vehicle is loaded or is to be unloaded~~  
4 ~~and the nearest highway or street upon which movement under an~~  
5 ~~all-systems permit is valid. If all roads leading to and from~~  
6 ~~a loading or unloading location used by a permitted vehicle~~  
7 ~~are designated as not valid, a local authority shall cooperate~~  
8 ~~with the department to find an alternate route for the permitted~~  
9 ~~vehicle over the shortest practicable distance.~~

10 (4) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
11 to implement and administer this paragraph.

12 Sec. 2. Section 321E.8, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 2. Vehicles with indivisible or divisible loads having an  
15 overall width not to exceed the width authorized under section  
16 321.454, an overall length not to exceed the length authorized  
17 under section 321.457, an overall height not to exceed the  
18 height authorized under section 321.456, and a total gross  
19 weight not to exceed the gross weight authorized under section  
20 321.463 by more than twelve and one-half percent, may operate  
21 under an all-systems permit and shall obtain route approval from  
22 the department. Permitted vehicles under this subsection with  
23 a gross weight exceeding eighty thousand pounds shall not be  
24 allowed to travel on any portion of the interstate road system.

25 Sec. 3. Section 321E.9, subsection 4, paragraph d, Code 2025,  
26 is amended by striking the paragraph.

27 Sec. 4. Section 321E.12, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
28 to read as follows:

29 1. a. A vehicle traveling under permit shall be registered  
30 for the gross weight of the vehicle and load. ~~A trip permit~~  
31 ~~issued according to section 326.23 shall not be used in lieu of~~  
32 ~~the registration provided for in this section.~~

33 b. For purposes of this section, a vehicle traveling under a  
34 single-trip permit issued under section 321E.9 may be registered  
35 with the department for the combined gross weight of the vehicle

1 and load on a single-trip basis. The fee for single-trip  
2 registration is four dollars per ton exceeding forty tons.

3 EXPLANATION

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

6 This bill relates to vehicles operating with a permit for  
7 excessive size or weight (permit).

8 Permits are generally issued by the authority responsible for  
9 the maintenance of the system of highways or streets on which  
10 the permitted vehicles are authorized to travel. One such permit  
11 is an all-systems permit that may be issued by the department  
12 of transportation (DOT) to authorize movement on most paved  
13 highways or streets, excluding the interstate road system and any  
14 highway or street under local authority where the permit is not  
15 valid, as determined by the local authority, if indicated to the  
16 DOT. Despite local authority determinations, permitted vehicles  
17 may still travel the shortest route between loading and unloading  
18 sites and valid highways. The bill makes an all-systems permit  
19 valid for movement on all primary and secondary roads, including  
20 roads designated by a local authority as a truck route, subject  
21 to the exceptions for the interstate road system and roads  
22 deemed not valid by a local authority. Under the bill, a road  
23 designated as not valid is subject to DOT review. If the DOT  
24 disagrees with the justification, the dispute must be resolved in  
25 accordance with DOT rules. The bill requires a local authority  
26 to cooperate with the DOT to find alternate routes if all roads  
27 leading to a loading and unloading location used by a permitted  
28 vehicle are designated as not valid.

29 Current law authorizes the DOT to issue an all-systems permit  
30 valid for the movement of vehicles with a total gross weight not  
31 to exceed the gross weight authorized under Code section 321.463  
32 (maximum gross weight), which varies based on the number of axles  
33 and distance between the axles, by more than 12 percent. The  
34 bill increases the allowable weight variance for such permitted  
35 vehicles to not more than 12.5 percent.

1 Under current law, containers for international shipment must  
2 be considered an indivisible load when transported under a  
3 single-trip permit if the vehicle combination does not exceed  
4 maximum dimensions, the container is sealed for international  
5 shipment and is either being exported or arriving from a foreign  
6 country, specified documentation is carried in the vehicle, and  
7 the container holds only raw forest products. The bill strikes  
8 the requirement that the container hold only raw forest products.

9 Under current law, the DOT and local authorities are  
10 authorized to issue single-trip permits for the movement of  
11 vehicles that exceed established dimensions and weight limits  
12 (Code section 321E.9). A vehicle traveling under an oversize or  
13 overweight permit is required to be registered for the gross  
14 weight of the vehicle and load. The owner of a commercial  
15 vehicle, which is properly registered and licensed in some other  
16 jurisdiction and also operated occasionally in Iowa, who pays  
17 the \$10 trip permit fee that otherwise authorizes a commercial  
18 vehicle not registered in Iowa to be operated in Iowa for up  
19 to 72 hours, in accordance with Code section 326.23, cannot  
20 use that trip permit in lieu of the oversize or overweight  
21 vehicle registration requirements. The bill authorizes a vehicle  
22 traveling under a single-trip permit to be registered with the  
23 DOT on a single-trip basis for the combined gross weight of the  
24 vehicle and load. The fee for single-trip registration is \$4 per  
25 ton exceeding 40 tons. The bill strikes the prohibition on using  
26 a Code section 326.23 trip permit in lieu of registration.