



1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 794

February 23, 2000 - Introduced by Representatives BRANDEMUEHL, TOWNSEND, GRONEMUS, POWERS, KREUSER, RYBA, PETTIS, KESTELL, SPILLNER, GROTHMAN, SERATTI, AINSWORTH, HUNDERTMARK, MUSSER, OWENS, PLOUFF, GUNDERSON and SYKORA, cosponsored by Senators BRESKE, FITZGERALD, CLAUSING, A. LASEE and FARROW. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 348.15 (3) (bg) and 348.15 (5m) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 maximum gross vehicle weight of motor trucks transporting exclusively milk.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law prohibits any person from driving upon a highway any motor vehicle that exceeds the maximum permissible gross vehicle weight or the maximum permissible weight per axle. Current law allows additional weight, beyond the weight limits ordinarily applicable, for vehicles transporting exclusively milk from the point of production to the primary market and the return of dairy supplies and dairy products from such primary market to the farm. On such a vehicle, for groups of three or more consecutive axles "more than nine feet" apart, an additional weight of 2,000 pounds is allowed if the gross vehicle weight does not exceed 80,000 pounds. To determine the distance between axles, the distance is measured between axle centers to the nearest even foot, and when a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the nearest larger whole number shall be used. An axle measurement of between eight feet, six inches and nine feet, six inches is considered to be nine feet. Under this measurement system, only milk vehicles having a group of three or more axles within an actual axle distance of nine feet, six inches or more qualify for the additional 2,000 pound axle weight.

This bill extends the 2,000 pound weight limit applicable to certain milk trucks to vehicles having an axle distance considered to be "nine feet or more", and eliminates the process of rounding the measurement to the nearest whole foot. With these changes, milk vehicles transporting milk and having a group of three or more axles within an actual axle distance of nine feet or more will qualify for the additional 2,000 pounds.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 348.15 (3) (bg) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 348.15 (3) (bg) In the case of a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting
3 exclusively milk from the point of production to the primary market and the return
4 of dairy supplies and dairy products from such primary market to the farm, the gross
5 weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle may not exceed 21,000
6 pounds or, for 2 axles 8 or less feet apart, 37,000 pounds or, notwithstanding sub.
7 (5m), for groups of 3 or more consecutive axles ~~more than 9 feet~~ or more apart, a
8 weight of 2,000 pounds more than is shown in par. (c), but not to exceed 80,000
9 pounds. This paragraph does not apply to the national system of interstate and
10 defense highways, ~~except for that portion of USH 51 between Wausau and STH 78~~
11 ~~and that portion of STH 78 between USH 51 and the I 90/94 interchange near~~
12 ~~Portage upon their federal designation as I 39.~~

13 **SECTION 2.** 348.15 (5m) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 348.15 (5m) The distances between axles and between the foremost and
15 rearmost of a group of axles shall be measured between axle centers and rounded to
16 the nearest even foot, and when a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the ~~nearest larger~~
17 ~~whole number shall be used~~ measurement shall be rounded up to the nearest foot.

18 **SECTION 3. Initial applicability.**

19 (1) WEIGHT LIMITS FOR MILK TRUCKS. This act first applies to motor vehicles
20 operated on the effective date of this subsection.

21

(END)