



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0400/1  
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## 2019 SENATE BILL 404

September 16, 2019 - Introduced by Senators TIFFANY, BERNIER, CRAIG, FEYEN, LEMAHIEU, OLSEN, STROEBEL and WANGGAARD, cosponsored by Representatives SPIROS, BRANDTJEN, FELZKOWSKI, GUNDRUM, HUTTON, KATZMA, MURSAU, NYGREN, PLUMER, QUINN, RAMTHUN, ROHRKASTE, SANFELIPPO, SORTWELL, TUSLER, WITTKER, ZIMMERMAN, DITTRICH and SKOWRONSKI. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Veterans and Military Affairs.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 348.15 (3) (intro.) and 348.27 (1); and **to create** 348.17 (7),  
2             348.25 (8) (b) 5. and 348.27 (20) of the statutes; **relating to:** overweight permits  
3             for vehicles or vehicle combinations with six or more axles.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to issue permits for the operation of vehicle combinations that exceed maximum gross weight limitations by not more than 11,000 pounds if the vehicle combination has six or more axles and meets specified weight limits based on the number of axles and distances between axles. The bill provides that the permits may be issued for operation only on state trunk highways and on local highways for a distance up to 15 miles in order to travel to and from a state trunk highway or to reach fuel, food, maintenance, repair, rest, staging, terminal or vehicle assembly facilities, or points of loading or unloading. The permits do not authorize operation of vehicles in excess of special or seasonal weight limits imposed on a highway or weight restrictions on heavy traffic routes.

Under the bill, an applicant for a permit must include a description of the proposed route they will travel, and DOT must minimize the operation of overweight vehicles on state trunk highways in residential areas. If DOT issues a permit that approves a route through a 1st class city, DOT must notify the city.

Under current law, with limited exceptions, no person may operate upon a highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds certain statutory weight limits unless the person obtains a permit issued by DOT or a local authority.

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Because this bill concerns an exception to the vehicle weight limits specified in ch. 348, stats., the Department of Transportation, as required by law, will prepare a report to be printed as an appendix to this bill.

For further information see the *state* 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) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           348.15 (3) (intro.) Subject to any modifications made by a 1st class city under  
3 s. 349.15 (3) and except as provided in s. 348.17 (5) ~~or~~, (6), or (7), no person, without  
4 a permit, may operate on a class “A” highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles  
5 unless the vehicle or combination of vehicles complies with the following weight  
6 limitations:

7           **SECTION 2.** 348.17 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

8           348.17 (7) (a) The gross weight imposed on the highway by any group of 2 or  
9 more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles being operated under  
10 a permit issued under s. 348.27 (20) may not exceed the maximum gross weights in  
11 the following table for each of the respective distances between axles and the  
12 respective numbers of axles of a group:

13           (a) [Figure]

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles	Number of Axles							
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
4	34,000							
5	34,000							
6	34,000							
7	34,000							
8 and less	34,000	34,000						
More than 8	39,000	42,000						
9	40,000	42,500						
10		43,500						
11		44,000						
12		45,000						50,000
13		45,500						50,500
14		46,500						51,000
15		47,000	52,000					

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Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles	Number of Axles						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16		48,000	52,500	58,000			
17		48,500	53,000	58,500			
18		49,500	54,000	59,000			
19		50,000	54,500	59,500			
20		51,000	55,000	60,500	66,000		
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500		
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000		
23		53,000	57,000	62,000	67,500		
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,000	74,000	
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500	
26		55,500	59,000	64,000	69,500	75,000	
27		56,000	60,000	64,500	70,000	75,500	
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	70,500	76,000	82,000
29		57,500	61,000	66,000	71,000	76,500	82,500
30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500	83,000
31		59,000	62,500	67,000	72,500	78,000	83,500
32		60,000	63,000	68,000	73,000	78,500	84,000
33		60,500	64,000	68,500	73,500	79,000	84,500
34		61,500	64,500	69,000	74,000	79,500	85,000
35		62,000	65,000	69,500	75,000	80,000	86,000
36		63,000	66,000	70,500	75,500	81,000	86,500
37		63,500	66,500	71,000	76,000	81,500	87,000
38		64,500	67,000	71,500	76,500	82,000	87,500
39		65,000	68,000	72,000	77,000	82,500	88,000
40		66,000	68,500	73,000	78,000	83,000	88,500
41		66,500	69,000	73,500	78,500	83,500	89,000
42		67,500	70,000	74,000	79,000	84,500	90,000
43		68,000	70,500	74,500	79,500	85,000	90,500
44		69,000	71,000	75,500	80,000	85,500	91,000
45		69,500	72,000	76,000	81,000	86,000	
46		70,500	72,500	76,500	81,500	86,500	
47		71,000	73,000	77,000	82,000	87,000	
48		72,000	74,000	78,000	82,500	88,000	
49		72,500	74,500	78,500	83,000	88,500	
50		73,500	75,000	79,000	84,000	89,000	
51		74,000	76,000	79,500	84,500	89,500	
52		75,000	76,500	80,500	85,000	90,000	
53		75,500	77,000	81,000	85,500	90,500	
54		76,500	78,000	81,500	86,000	91,000	
55		77,000	78,500	82,000	87,000		
56		78,000	79,000	83,000	87,500		
57		78,500	80,000	83,500	88,000		
58		79,500	80,500	84,000	88,500		
59		80,000	81,000	84,500	89,000		
60		81,000	82,000	85,500	90,000		
61		81,500	82,500	86,000	90,500		
62		82,500	83,000	86,500	91,000		

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Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles	Number of Axles						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
63		83,000	84,000	87,000			
64		84,000	84,500	88,000			
65		84,500	85,000	88,500			
66		85,500	86,000	89,000			
67		86,000	86,500	89,500			
68		87,000	87,000	90,500			
69		87,500	88,000	91,000			
70		88,500	88,500				
71		89,000	89,000				
72		90,000	90,000				
73		90,500	90,500				
74		91,000	91,000				

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(b) Unless the department provides otherwise by rule, any axle of a vehicle or combination of vehicles that does not impose on the highway at least 8 percent of the gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles may not be counted as an axle for the purposes of par. (a).

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**SECTION 3.** 348.25 (8) (b) 5. of the statutes is created to read:

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348.25 (8) (b) 5. For a permit issued under s. 348.27 (20), \$300.

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**SECTION 4.** 348.27 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

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348.27 (1) APPLICATIONS. All applications for annual, consecutive month, or

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multiple trip permits for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles or loads

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shall be made to the officer or agency designated by this section as having authority

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to issue the particular permit desired for use of the particular highway in question.

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All applications under subs. (2) and (4) to (15) shall be made upon forms prescribed

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by the department. All applications under sub. (16) shall be made utilizing an

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electronic process prescribed by the department. All applications under sub. (17)

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shall be made utilizing an electronic process prescribed by the department. All

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applications under sub. (18) shall be made utilizing an electronic process prescribed

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1 by the department. All applications under sub. (20) shall be made utilizing an  
2 electronic process prescribed by the department and shall include a description of the  
3 route the applicant proposes to travel under the permit.

4 **SECTION 5.** 348.27 (20) of the statutes is created to read:

5 348.27 (20) PERMITS FOR OVERWEIGHT OPERATION OF VEHICLES WITH 6 OR MORE  
6 AXLES. (a) The department may issue annual or consecutive month permits for the  
7 operation of vehicle combinations that have 6 or more axles and that exceed the  
8 maximum gross weight limitations under s. 348.15 (3) (c) by not more than 11,000  
9 pounds.

10 (b) When determining whether to issue permits under this subsection, the  
11 department shall minimize the operation of vehicles on portions of state trunk  
12 highways located in areas that are primarily residential.

13 (c) A permit under this subsection is valid only on state trunk highways and  
14 on local highways for a distance not to exceed 15 miles in order to travel to and from  
15 a state trunk highway or to reach fuel, food, maintenance, repair, rest, staging,  
16 terminal or vehicle assembly facilities, or points of loading or unloading.

17 (d) A permit under this subsection does not authorize operation of vehicles in  
18 excess of a special or seasonal weight limit imposed on a highway under s. 349.16 or  
19 a weight restriction on a heavy traffic route designated under s. 349.17.

20 (e) A permit under this subsection is not valid for use on any interstate highway  
21 unless federal law authorizes vehicles or vehicle combinations with 6 or more axles  
22 and a gross vehicle weight of not more than 91,000 pounds to operate on interstate  
23 highways.

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**SECTION 5**

1 (f) If the department issues a permit under this subsection that approves a  
2 route through a 1st class city, the department shall notify the 1st class city of the  
3 issuance of the permit.

4 (END)