

WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL  
1997-98 SESSION  
SPEAKER BRANCEL

SEQUENCE NO. 33  
MARCH 11, 1997  
2:01 PM

AB 18  
BRANDEMUEHL, D.

PASSAGE  
AB 18 INCREASING LENGTH  
FOR 3-VEHICLE COMBINATIONS

AYES - 44      NAYS - 55      NOT VOTING - 0      PAIRED - 0

A N NV NAME	A N NV NAME	A N NV NAME
A AINSWORTH, J. (R)	A JENSEN, S. (R)	N PORTER, C. (R)
A ALBERS, S. (R)	N JESKEWITZ, S. (R)	N POTTER, R. (D)
N BALDWIN, T. (D)	A JOHNSRUD, D. (R)	A POWERS, M. (R)
N BAUMGART, J. (D)	A KAUFERT, D. (R)	N REYNOLDS, M. (D)
N BLACK, S. (D)	N KEDZIE, N. (R)	A RILEY, A. (D)
N BOCK, P. (D)	N KELSO, C. (R)	N ROBSON, J. (D)
N BOYLE, F. (D)	A KLUSMAN, J. (R)	N RUTKOWSKI, J. (D)
A BRANDEMUEHL, D. (R)	A KREIBICH, R. (R)	A RYBA, J. (D)
N CARPENTER, T. (D)	A KREUSER, J. (D)	A SCHAFFER, C. (R)
N COGGS, S. (D)	N KRUG, S. (D)	N SCHNEIDER, M. (D)
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N DOBYNS, J. (R)	N KUNICKI, W. (D)	A SKINDRUD, R. (R)
N DUEHOLM, R. (D)	N LA FAVE, J. (D)	A SPRINGER, T. (D)
N DUFF, M. (R)	A LADWIG, B. (R)	N STASKUNAS, T. (D)
A FOTI, S. (R)	A LASEE, F. (R)	A STEINBRINK, J. (D)
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A GREEN, M. (R)	N LINTON, B. (D)	N UNDERHEIM, G. (R)
N GRONEMUS, B. (D)	A LORGE, W. (R)	N URBAN, F. (R)
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A HAHN, E. (R)	N MURAT, W. (D)	N WALKER, S. (R)
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N HANSON, D. (D)	N NASS, S. (R)	N WASSERMAN, S. (D)
N HARSDORF, S. (R)	N NOTESTEIN, B. (D)	N WIECKERT, S. (R)
A HASENOHRL, D. (D)	N OLSEN, L. (R)	N WILLIAMS, A. (D)
N HEBL, T. (D)	N OTT, A. (R)	N WOOD, W. (D)
N HOVEN, T. (R)	A OTTE, C. (R)	N YOUNG, L. (D)
N HUBER, G. (D)	A OURADA, T. (R)	N YOUNG, R. (D)
N HUBLER, M. (D)	A OWENS, C. (R)	N ZIEGELBAUER, R. (D)
A HUEBSCH, M. (R)	A PLALE, J. (D)	A ZUKOWSKI, R. (R)
A HUTCHISON, D. (R)	A PLOUFF, J. (D)	A SPEAKER (R)

NO VACANT DISTRICTS





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## DAVID BRANDEMUEHL

State Representative  
49th Assembly District

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TO: All Legislators

FROM: Rep. David Brandemuehl 

DATE: December 12, 1996

RE: Co-sponsorship of **LRB 1104**, relating to increasing the maximum permissible length for certain 3-vehicle combinations

I will be introducing legislation to increase the maximum permissible overall length of 3-vehicle combinations from 60 feet to 65 feet. A constituent brought it my attention that vacationers often find it difficult to meet the current 60 feet requirement. Since 2-vehicle combinations are already allowed a maximum length of 65 feet, this bill will make the statutes consistent and make it easier for those towing 'vacation-type' vehicles.

The analysis for this bill is printed below. If you are interested in co-sponsoring LRB 1104 please contact my office at 6-1170 by **January 17, 1997**.

### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, the department of transportation may issue annual or consecutive month permits for certain 3-vehicle combinations that consist of the following vehicles:

1. A towing vehicle.
2. A mobile home or camping trailer.
3. A boat trailer, motorcycle trailer, personal watercraft trailer or all-terrain vehicle trailer.

The overall length of the combination of vehicles may not exceed 60 feet and, unless not structurally possible, the lighter of the towed vehicles must occupy the last position in the 3-vehicle combination.

This bill increases the maximum permissible overall length of the combination of vehicles from 60 feet to 65 feet.

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

this section or s. 348.27, the authority issuing the permit may also issue a backhaul permit to enable such vehicle or combination to transport a load which does not exceed statutory size and weight limits. A backhaul permit may be issued only when an oversize load is transported on the return trip or outgoing trip. The fee for the backhaul permit is \$3.

History: 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (8) (a); 1977 c. 273; 1981 c. 20, 215, 312, 391; 1983 a. 78.

**348.27 Annual, consecutive month or multiple trip permits.** (1) **APPLICATIONS.** All applications for annual, consecutive month or multiple trip permits for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles or loads shall be made to the officer or agency designated by this section as having authority to issue the particular permit desired for use of the particular highway in question. All applications under subs. (2) and (4) to (13) shall be made upon forms prescribed by the department.

(2) **ANNUAL AND CONSECUTIVE MONTH PERMITS.** Except as otherwise restricted in this section, annual and consecutive month permits for oversize or overweight vehicles or loads may be issued by the department, regardless of the highways involved.

(3) **GENERAL PERMITS.** For good cause in specified instances for specified construction or maintenance operations or for a specified period, the officer or agency in charge of maintenance of a highway may allow loads exceeding the size or weight limitations imposed by this chapter to be hauled on such highway. No such officer or agency shall issue such permits for use of a highway the cost of maintenance of which is paid by a unit of government other than the unit of government which such officer or agency represents.

(3m) **PERMIT AMENDMENTS FOR REPLACEMENT VEHICLES.** If a vehicle for which a permit has been issued under this section is removed from service or sold, the permittee may operate a replacement vehicle of the same type and weight class for the remainder of the period for which the permit was issued or validated under an amendment of the permit. The permittee shall apply to the officer or agency that issued the permit for the amendment. The terms of the permit, including any requirements imposed by the officer or agency for issuance of the permit, shall apply to the permittee's operation of the replacement vehicle under the amendment of the permit. No fee shall be charged for the amendment of a permit under this subsection.

(4) **INDUSTRIAL INTERPLANT PERMITS.** The department may issue, to industries and to their agent motor carriers owning and operating oversize vehicles in connection with interplant, and from plant to state line, operations in this state, annual or consecutive month permits for the operation of such vehicles over designated routes, provided that such permit shall not be issued under this section to agent motor carriers or from plant to state line for vehicles or loads of width exceeding 102 inches upon routes of the national system of interstate and defense highways. If the routes desired to be used by the applicant involve city or village streets or county or town highways, the application shall be accompanied by a written statement of route approval by the officer in charge of maintenance of the highway in question.

(5) **POLE AND PIPE PERMITS.** Except as further provided in this subsection, the department may issue an annual or consecutive month permit to pipeline companies or operators or public service corporations for transportation of poles, pipe, girders and similar materials and to companies and individuals hauling peeled or unpeeled pole-length forest products used in its business. Such permits issued to companies and individuals hauling peeled or unpeeled pole-length forest products shall limit the length of vehicle and load to a maximum of 10 feet in excess of the limitations in s. 348.07 (1) and shall be valid only on a class "A" highway as defined in s. 348.15 (1) (b). Permits issued to companies or individuals hauling pole-length forest products may not exempt such companies or individuals from the maximum limitations on vehicle load imposed by this chapter.

(7) **MOBILE HOME PERMITS.** The department may issue annual or consecutive month statewide permits to licensed mobile home transport companies and to licensed mobile home manufacturers and dealers authorizing them to transport oversize mobile homes over any of the highways of the state in the ordinary course of their business.

(7m) **THREE-VEHICLE COMBINATIONS.** The department may issue an annual or consecutive month permit for the movement of a 3-vehicle combination consisting of a towing vehicle and, in order by weight, with the lighter of the towed vehicles as the 3rd vehicle in the 3-vehicle combination unless not structurally possible, a mobile home or camping trailer and a boat trailer, motorcycle trailer, personal watercraft trailer or all-terrain vehicle trailer, if the overall length of the combination of vehicles does not exceed 60 feet and the towed vehicles are for the use of the operator of the towing vehicle. A permit under this subsection may be issued only by the department, regardless of the highways to be used. The department may designate the routes that may be used by the permittee. The fee for an annual permit under this subsection is \$40. The fee for a consecutive month permit under this subsection shall be determined in the manner provided in s. 348.25 (8) (bm), except that the \$40 fee for an annual permit under this subsection shall be used in the computation.

(8) **EMERGENCY ENERGY CONSERVATION PERMITS.** During an energy emergency, the department may waive the divisible load limitation of s. 348.25 (4) and issue permits valid for a period not to exceed 30 days for overweight vehicles carrying energy resources or fuel or milk commodities designated by the governor or a designee, regardless of the highways involved, to conserve energy. Such permits may only allow weights not more than 10% greater than the gross axle and axle combination weight limitations, and not more than 15% greater than the gross vehicle weight limitations under ss. 348.15 and 348.16. No permit issued under this subsection is valid unless the overweight vehicle is registered under ch. 341 for the maximum gross weight allowed by the permit and the department of transportation has been paid a permit fee of \$10 per 1,000 pounds or fraction thereof for the amount by which such maximum gross weight exceeds 80,000 pounds. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to permit the department to waive the requirements of s. 348.07.

(9) **POLE LENGTH AND PULPWOOD PERMIT.** (a) The department may issue annual or consecutive month permits for the transportation on a vehicle or combination of vehicles of loads of wood, paper products, pole length and pulpwood exceeding statutory length or weight limitations over any class of highway for a distance not to exceed 11 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin state line, provided that if the roads desired to be used by the applicants involve streets or highways other than those within the state trunk highway system, the application shall be accompanied by a written statement of route approval by the officer in charge of maintenance of the other highway.

(b) For a vehicle or combination of vehicles the weight of which exceeds any of the provisions of s. 348.15 (3), the fee for an annual permit under this subsection shall be one of the following:

1. If the gross weight is 90,000 pounds or less, \$100.
2. If the gross weight is more than 90,000 pounds but not more than 100,000 pounds, \$175.
3. If the gross weight is greater than 100,000 pounds, \$175 plus \$50 for each 10,000-pound increment or fraction thereof by which the gross weight exceeds 100,000 pounds.

(c) The fee for a consecutive month permit under this subsection for a vehicle or combination of vehicles the weight of which exceeds any of the provisions of s. 348.15 (3) shall be determined in the manner provided in s. 348.25 (8) (bm), except that the applicable fee for an annual permit under par. (b) shall be used in the computation.

*P.S. on back of back sheet*

on highways designated as parts of the national system of interstate and defense highways pursuant to s. 84.29. The exemptions provided by this paragraph shall apply only to single and tandem axle trucks.

(L) Twelve feet for loads of hay in bales if the total outside width of the loads do not exceed the width of a single traffic lane of any highway over which the loads are carried. This paragraph does not apply to vehicles on highways designated as parts of the national system of interstate and defense highways under s. 84.29.

(2m) The secretary, by rule, shall designate safety devices which may not be included in the calculation of width under subs. (1) and (2). The designation of safety devices under this subsection may not be inconsistent with the safety devices designated by the U.S. secretary of transportation under P.L. 97-369, section 321.

(3) **OVERWIDTH FARM MACHINERY.** Farm tractors exceeding 12 feet in width and all other farm machinery and implements of husbandry exceeding 8 feet 6 inches in width not being operated in the course of performance of its work may be moved, towed or hauled over the highways without special permit between one-half hour before sunrise and sunset on Mondays to Thursdays and from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. on Fridays. Such overwidth machinery shall not be moved on any Wisconsin highway which is part of the national system of interstate highways without special permit.

(4) Notwithstanding sub. (1), the secretary may restrict vehicles to a width of less than 8 feet 6 inches on any portion of any state or local highway if he or she deems such restriction necessary to protect the public safety. Any such restriction shall be indicated by official signs. If the secretary restricts vehicles to a width of less than 8 feet 6 inches on any local highway, the local authority in charge of maintenance shall be responsible for erecting the appropriate signs on the local highway.

History: 1975 c. 50; 1977 c. 26; 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (9) (b); 1981 c. 22; 1983 a. 78, 508; 1985 a. 187; 1993 a. 353, 404.

**348.06 Height of vehicles.** (1) No person, without a permit therefor, shall operate on a highway any motor vehicle, mobile home, trailer or semitrailer having an overall height in excess of 13 1/2 feet, except as otherwise provided in sub. (2).

(2) The following vehicles may be operated without a permit for excessive height if the overall height does not exceed the indicated limitations:

(a) No limitation for implements of husbandry temporarily operated upon a highway;

(3) The limitations on total height stated in this section shall not be construed as requiring a clearance of such height or as relieving the owners of vehicles not exceeding such total height from liability for any damage.

**348.07 Length of vehicles.** (1) No person, without a permit therefor, may operate on a highway any single vehicle with an overall length in excess of 40 feet or any combination of 2 vehicles with an overall length in excess of 65 feet, except as otherwise provided in subs. (2) and (2a).

(2) The following vehicles may be operated without a permit for excessive length if the overall length does not exceed the indicated limitations:

(c) 45 feet for mobile homes;

(e) No limitation for implements of husbandry temporarily operated upon a highway;

(f) No overall length limitation for a tractor-semitrailer combination, a double bottom or an automobile haulaway when such tractor-semitrailer combination, double bottom or automobile haulaway is operated on a highway designated under sub. (4).

(fm) No length limitation for a truck tractor or road tractor when such truck tractor or road tractor is operated in a tractor-

semitrailer combination or as part of a double bottom or an automobile haulaway on a highway designated under sub. (4).

(g) 48 feet for a semitrailer or trailer operated as part of a 2-vehicle combination, except as provided in par. (gr).

(gm) 28 feet 6 inches for a semitrailer or trailer operated as part of a double bottom.

(gr) 53 feet for a semitrailer whose length from kingpin to axle does not exceed 41 feet and which is operated as part of a 2-vehicle combination on a highway designated under sub. (4).

(h) 65 feet for articulated buses operated in urban areas.

(i) 58 feet for a vehicle combination consisting of a motor bus and trailer owned and operated by, and for the exclusive use of a nonprofit organization. This paragraph does not apply to trailers used for transporting recreational vehicles. As used in this paragraph, "nonprofit organization" means any organization described in section 501 (c) (3) of the internal revenue code which is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the internal revenue code.

(j) 66 feet for an automobile haulaway plus an additional overhang of 4 feet to the front of the vehicle and 5 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

(2a) Tour trains consisting of 4 vehicles including the propelling motor vehicle may be operated as provided in s. 348.08 (1) (c).

(3) (a) The overall length of a mobile home shall be measured from the rear thereof to the rear of the vehicle to which it is attached.

(b) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., the length of a semitrailer or trailer shall be measured from the front thereof to the rear of the semitrailer or trailer or cargo, whichever is longer, excluding bumpers, stake pockets, air deflectors and refrigeration units.

2. The length of a semitrailer operated as the first trailing unit in a double bottom consisting of a truck tractor and 2 semitrailers does not include a frame extension bearing a fifth-wheel connection by which the 2nd trailing unit is drawn unless the frame extension is more than 8 feet in length. This subdivision does not affect the measurement of length from the front of the semitrailer to the rear of the cargo.

(c) The distance between a kingpin and semitrailer axle shall be measured as follows:

1. On a semitrailer having a tandem axle, from the kingpin to a point midway between the first and last axles of the tandem axle.

2. On a semitrailer not having a tandem axle, from the kingpin to the center of the rearmost axle.

(4) The secretary shall, by rule, designate the highways to which sub. (2) (f), (fm), (gm) and (gr) and s. 348.08 (1) (e) and (h) apply. The designation of highways under this subsection may not be inconsistent with the designation of highways made by the U.S. secretary of transportation under P.L. 97-424, section 411. The secretary may also designate additional highways by rule. In adopting a rule designating other highways, which may include 2-lane highways, the secretary shall specify the factors which resulted in the determination to designate the highways. These factors shall include, but are not limited to, safety, economics, energy savings, industry productivity and competition. Vehicles to which sub. (2) (f), (fm), (gm) and (gr) and s. 348.08 (1) (e) and (h) apply may also operate on undesignated highways for a distance of 5 miles or less in order to obtain access to a designated highway or to reach fuel, food, maintenance, repair, rest, staging, terminal or vehicle assembly facilities or points of loading or unloading. The secretary may, by rule, designate an access route of more than 5 miles from a designated highway when the longer route provides safer and better access to a location which is within the 5-mile limit. Household goods carriers may operate between highways designated in this subsection and points of loading and unloading.

Increase the permissible length of  
3-vehicle combinations to 65 ft  
(currently 60 ft. ~~3~~, 378.27 (7m) of the statutes)  
- only for fifth-wheelers

Constituent Alden Allen 822-4861  
Spitzer  
12548 US Hwy. 61 Fenimore

DOT - Sgt. Wagner, District One  
246-3238

APR 04 1961

Dear Dave,

My camper is a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel with a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel plate and pin like a semi trailer. I'm very disappointed that I can't buy a permit for 65 feet the same as semis and articulated buses. Automobile haulers are allowed 75 ft.

Thank you much for your letter.  
Yours truly,

Alden Allen

12548 Hwy 61

Fennimore

53809

822-4861

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(A)			HASENOHRL, D. (D)		N		OLSEN, L. (R)		N		WILLIAMS, A. (D)
	N		HEBL, T. (D)		N		OTT, A. (R)		N		WOOD, W. (D)
	N		HOVEN, T. (R)	A			OTTE, C. (R)		N		YOUNG, L. (D)
	N		HUBER, G. (D)	A			OURADA, T. (R)		N		YOUNG, R. (D)
	N		HUBLER, M. (D)	A			OWENS, C. (R)		N		ZIEGELBAUER, R. (D)
A			HUEBSCH, M. (R)	(A)			PLALE, J. (D)	A			ZUKOWSKI, R. (R)
A			HUTCHISON, D. (R)	(A)			PLOUFF, J. (D)	A			SPEAKER (R)

NO VACANT DISTRICTS



33-19 Rep  
19-28 Dems  
11-36 Dems

WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL  
 1997-98 SESSION  
 SPEAKER BRANCEL

SEQUENCE NO. 32  
 MARCH 11, 1997  
 1:48 PM

AB 18  
 BRANDEMUEHL, D.

ENGROSSMENT  
 AB 18 INCREASING LENGTH  
 FOR 3-VEHICLE COMBINATIONS

AYES - 66      NAYS - 32      NOT VOTING - 1      PAIRED - 0

A	N	NV	NAME	A	N	NV	NAME	A	N	NV	NAME
A			AINSWORTH, J. (R)	A			JENSEN, S. (R)		N		PORTER, C. (R)
A			ALBERS, S. (R)		N		JESKEWITZ, S. (R)		N		POTTER, R. (D)
	N		BALDWIN, T. (D)	A			JOHNSRUD, D. (R)	A			POWERS, M. (R)
A			BAUMGART, J. (D)	A			KAUFERT, D. (R)		N		REYNOLDS, M. (D)
	N		BLACK, S. (D)	A			KEDZIE, N. (R)	A			RILEY, A. (D)
	N		BOCK, P. (D)		N		KELSO, C. (R)		N		ROBSON, J. (D)
A			BOYLE, F. (D)		X		KLUSMAN, J. (R)		N		RUTKOWSKI, J. (D)
A			BRANDEMUEHL, D. (R)	A			KREIBICH, R. (R)	A			RYBA, J. (D)
	N		CARPENTER, T. (D)	A			KREUSER, J. (D)	A			SCHAFFER, C. (R)
A			COGGS, S. (D)	A			KRUG, S. (D)		N		SCHNEIDER, M. (D)
	N		CULLEN, D. (D)		N		KRUSICK, M. (D)	A			SERATTI, L. (R)
	N		DOBYNS, J. (R)		N		KUNICKI, W. (D)	A			SKINDRUD, R. (R)
	N		DUEHOLM, R. (D)	A			LA FAVE, J. (D)	A			SPRINGER, T. (D)
A			DUFF, M. (R)	A			LADWIG, B. (R)	A			STASKUNAS, T. (D)
A			FOTI, S. (R)	A			LASEE, F. (R)	A			STEINBRINK, J. (D)
A			FREESE, S. (R)		N		LAZICH, M. (R)	A			SYKORA, T. (R)
A			GARD, J. (R)	A			LEHMAN, J. (D)		N		TRAVIS, D. (D)
	N		GOETSCH, R. (R)	A			LEHMAN, M. (R)	A			TURNER, R. (D)
A			GREEN, M. (R)		N		LINTON, B. (D)		N		UNDERHEIM, G. (R)
	N		GRONEMUS, B. (D)	A			LORGE, W. (R)	A			URBAN, F. (R)
A			GROTHMAN, G. (R)	A			MEYER, M. (D)	A			VANDER LOOP, W. (D)
A			GUNDERSON, S. (R)		N		MORRIS-TATUM J. (D)		N		VRAKAS, D. (R)
A			HAHN, E. (R)		N		MURAT, W. (D)	A			WALKER, S. (R)
A			HANDRICK, J. (R)	A			MUSSER, T. (R)	A			WARD, D. (R)
	N		HANSON, D. (D)	A			NASS, S. (R)		N		WASSERMAN, S. (D)
A			HARSDORF, S. (R)		N		NOTESTEIN, B. (D)	A			WIECKERT, S. (R)
A			HASENOHRL, D. (D)	A			OLSEN, L. (R)		N		WILLIAMS, A. (D)
A			HEBL, T. (D)	A			OTT, A. (R)		N		WOOD, W. (D)
A			HOVEN, T. (R)	A			OTTE, C. (R)	A			YOUNG, L. (D)
	N		HUBER, G. (D)	A			OURADA, T. (R)	A			YOUNG, R. (D)
A			HUBLER, M. (D)	A			OWENS, C. (R)	A			ZIEGELBAUER, R. (D)
A			HUEBSCH, M. (R)	A			PLALE, J. (D)	A			ZUKOWSKI, R. (R)
A			HUTCHISON, D. (R)	A			PLOUFF, J. (D)	A			SPEAKER (R)

NO VACANT DISTRICTS



1996

545 permits were given  
by DOT

with your bill, DOT estimates  
an additional 50 permits  
will be given

- If someone tries to amend the  
bill to include trailers for ~~boats~~  
snowmobiles, etc., DOT would  
like to see general language which  
would encompass all of them

*towed vehicle*

**AB 18: Length of 3-Vehicle Combinations**

DATE: March 11, 1997

*66-32*

*44-55  
X  
This does not  
pertain to Commercial  
Trailer  
3 vehicle train  
one in law now.  
Doesn't affect*

**BACKGROUND**

Under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) may issue a permit for the movement of a 3-vehicle combination consisting of a towing vehicle, a mobile home or camping trailer, and a boat trailer, motorcycle trailer, personal watercraft trailer or an all-terrain trailer if the overall length of the vehicle combination does not exceed 60 feet and the vehicles are for the use of the owner. The fee for the annual permit is \$40.

**SUMMARY OF ASSEMBLY BILL 18 (AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE)**

Assembly Bill 18 extends the foot requirement for 3-vehicle combination permits from 60 feet to 65 feet if the second vehicle in the combination has a 5<sup>th</sup>-wheel kingpin connection. The bill also includes golf cart trailers to the list of vehicles that can be included in the 3-vehicle combination.

**AMENDMENTS**

**Assembly Substitute Amendment 1** amends the original bill to extend the foot requirement to 65 feet only for 5<sup>th</sup>-wheel kingpin connections. The original bill extended the foot requirement for all 3-vehicle combinations. Also, the original bill did not include golf-cart trailers to the list of vehicles allowed in 3-vehicle combinations [ASA 1 was adopted 14-1, Gronemus voting no].

**FISCAL EFFECT**

A fiscal estimate prepared by the Department of Transportation on the original bill estimates that passage of this bill will generate an additional 50 permits per year for 3-vehicle combinations. Each permit costs \$40 per year, generating an additional \$2,000 per year. Issuance of the permits can be handled by existing staff, so no additional expenditures are anticipated. The DOT did not create an additional fiscal estimate after the substitute amendment was adopted.

**PROS**

- (1) Depending on the vehicles being towed, some vacationers find it difficult to meet the current 60 foot requirement. Assembly Bill 18 will assist owners of 5<sup>th</sup>-wheel kingpin trailers to receive a permit from the DOT to have a 3-vehicle combination.

March 11, 1997  
Assembly Bill 18, page two

- (2) Currently, 2-vehicle combinations may not exceed 65 feet in length. This bill will create some consistency in this regard.
- (3) Trailers attached to their towing vehicle with a 5<sup>th</sup>-wheel kingpin connection are considered safer than other trailer connections.

### **CONS**

- (1) Although the foot requirement change is not significant, extending it to 65 feet for 5<sup>th</sup>-wheel kingpin connections may create some safety hazards on the road.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Rep. David Brandemuehl, the author of AB 18, testified, and Rep. Terry Musser registered, in favor of Assembly Bill 18.

### **OPPOSITION**

J.H. Nelson, United Transportation Union, and Robert Alba, United Transportation Union Local # 322 registered in opposition to Assembly Bill 18.

### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

Assembly Bill 18 was introduced on January 28, 1997, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Highways and Transportation. A public hearing was held on February 13, 1997. On February 27, 1997, the Committee voted 14-1 (Gronemus) to recommend Assembly Bill 18 for passage.

**CONTACT:** Matt Phillips, ARC



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

One East Main Street, Suite 401; P.O. Box 2536; Madison, WI 53701-2536  
Telephone (608) 266-1304  
Fax (608) 266-3830

DATE: March 10, 1997  
TO: SPEAKER BEN BRANCEL  
FROM: William Ford, Senior Staff Attorney  
SUBJECT: Description of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to 1997 Assembly Bill 18

This memorandum explains Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to 1997 Assembly Bill 18 (the "Substitute Amendment"), relating to increasing the maximum permissible length for certain three-vehicle combinations.

### A. CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) may issue annual or consecutive monthly permits to operate certain three-vehicle combinations that consist of:

1. A towing vehicle;
2. A mobile home or camping trailer; and
3. A boat trailer, motorcycle trailer, personal watercraft trailer or all-terrain vehicle trailer.

The overall length of the combination of vehicles may not exceed 60 feet and, unless not structurally possible, the lighter of the towed vehicles must occupy the last position in the three-vehicle combination. In addition, the towed vehicles must be for the use of the operator of the towing vehicle. A three-vehicle combination permit may be issued only by the DOT, regardless of the highways upon which the vehicles are used. The DOT may designate the routes that may be used by the person receiving the permit. The fee for an annual permit is \$40. The fee for a consecutive month permit is 1/12 of the \$40 annual fee for each month that the permit is issued.

**B. THE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT**

The Substitute Amendment adds golf cart trailers as one of the types of vehicles that can be towed in a three-vehicle combination that does not exceed 60 feet in length.

In addition, the Substitute Amendment authorizes DOT to issue annual or consecutive month permits for three-vehicle combinations that do not exceed *65 feet* in length, under the same circumstances as exist under current law, with two exceptions. The first exception is that the second vehicle in the three-vehicle combination must be attached to the towing vehicle by a "5th wheel kingpin connection," which means that at least a portion of the weight of the towed vehicle must rest over or in front of the rear axle of the towing vehicle. The second exception is that the Substitute Amendment would allow golf cart trailers to be included in a 65-foot three-vehicle combination.

Please contact me at the Legislative Council Staff offices if I can be of further assistance.

WF:lah;jt

## **TESTIMONY**

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 18**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS, THE INTENT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 18 IS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE OVERALL LENGTH OF CERTAIN 3-VEHICLE COMBINATIONS.**

**ASSEMBLY BILL 18 WOULD APPLY TO THE COMBINATIONS OF VEHICLES THAT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. A TOWING VEHICLE**
- 2. A MOBILE HOME OR CAMPING TRAILER**
- 3. A BOAT TRAILER, MOTORCYCLE TRAILER, PERSONAL WATERCRAFT TRAILER OR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE TRAILER.**

**CURRENTLY, THESE TYPES OF VEHICLE COMBINATIONS ARE LIMITED TO AN OVERALL LENGTH OF 60 FEET. A CONSTITUENT RECENTLY BROUGHT ~~IT~~ TO MY ATTENTION THAT VACATIONERS OFTEN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MEET THIS 60 FEET REQUIREMENT. TAKING THAT INTO**

CONSIDERATION AND THE FACT THAT THERE ARE A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF THESE VEHICLE COMBINATIONS ON THE ROAD, I <sup>am proposing</sup> ~~HAVE PROPOSED~~ TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM LENGTH TO 65 FEET.

THIS EXTENSION WOULD MAKE THE STATUTES CONSISTENT WITH THOSE FOR 2-VEHICLE COMBINATIONS WHICH ARE ALREADY ALLOWED A MAXIMUM LENGTH OF 65 FEET.

ORIGINALLY, MY INTENT WAS TO RESTRICT THIS INCREASE TO ONLY 5<sup>TH</sup> WHEELERS. IF THE COMMITTEE PREFERS, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE BILL TO REFLECT THIS RESTRICTION.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

may have amendments  
1) 2<sup>nd</sup> wheel only  
2) allow for Golf carts

**1997 Session**

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.  
AB18

Amendment No. if Applicable

**FISCAL ESTIMATE**

DOA-2048 (R10/92)

- ORIGINAL       UPDATED  
 CORRECTED       SUPPLEMENTAL

**Subject**

Increasing the maximum permissible length for certain 3-vehicle combinations

**Fiscal Effect**

State:  No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation

- Increase Existing Appropriation       Increase Existing Revenues  
 Decrease Existing Appropriation       Decrease Existing Revenues  
 Create New Appropriation

- Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget       Yes       No  
 Decrease Costs

Local:  No local government costs

1.  Increase Costs  
 Permissive       Mandatory  
2.  Decrease Costs  
 Permissive       Mandatory

3.  Increase Revenues  
 Permissive       Mandatory  
4.  Decrease Revenues  
 Permissive       Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:  
 Towns       Villages       Cities  
 Counties       Others  
 School Districts       VTAE Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**

- GPR       FED       PRO       PRS       SEG       SEG-S

**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

501 permits in 1995  
545 permits in 1996

Anticipate a 10% increase in the number of permits due to AB18 which equals approximately 50 permits per year.

50 x \$40 per permit = \$2000/yr

The extra 50 permits per year can be handled by existing staff.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

None

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)

Mark Morrison, 266-1675  
Department of Transportation

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

*Steve Busch* 266-0459

Date

02/06/97

# FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET

1997 SESSION

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect  
DOA-2047(R10/92)

ORIGINAL  UPDATED  
 CORRECTED  SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No/Adm.Rule No.  
AB18

Amendment No.

Subject

Increasing the maximum permissible length for certain 3-vehicle combinations

I. One-time Costs or Revenue Fluctuations for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):  
\$0

II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on State funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations-Salaries and Fringes		\$ -	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)		( FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations-Other Costs			-
Local Assistance			-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			-
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>		<b>\$ -0-</b>	<b>\$ - -0-</b>
B. State Costs by Source of Funds		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
GPR		\$	\$ -
FED		\$	\$ -
PRO/PRS		\$	\$ -
SEG/SEG-S		\$	\$ -
III. State Revenues	Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fees, etc.)	Increased Rev.	Decreased Rev.
GPR Taxes		\$	\$ -
GPR Earned			-
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S		\$2,000	-
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>		<b>\$ 2,000</b>	<b>\$ - -0-</b>

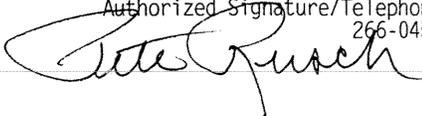
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT

STATE

LOCAL

NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
NET CHANGE IN REVENUES	\$ 2,000	\$ -0-

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)  
Department of Transportation  
Mark Morrison, 266-1675

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.  
  
266-0459

Date  
02/06/97

1997 Session

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.  
AB18

Amendment No. if Applicable

- ORIGINAL
- UPDATED
- CORRECTED
- SUPPLEMENTAL

**FISCAL ESTIMATE**

DOA-2048 (R10/92)

**Subject**

Increasing the maximum permissible length for certain 3-vehicle combinations

**Fiscal Effect**

State:  No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation

- Increase Existing Appropriation
- Decrease Existing Appropriation
- Create New Appropriation
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget  Yes  No

Decrease Costs

Local:  No local government costs

- 1.  Increase Costs
  - Permissive  Mandatory
- 2.  Decrease Costs
  - Permissive  Mandatory

- 3.  Increase Revenues
  - Permissive  Mandatory
- 4.  Decrease Revenues
  - Permissive  Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
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  - School Districts  VTAE Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**

- GPR  FED  PRO  PRS  SEG  SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

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**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

None

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)

Mark Morrison, 266-1675  
Department of Transportation

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

*Pete Kusch* 266-0459

Date

02/06/97

# FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET

**1997 SESSION**

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect  
DOA-2047(R10/92)

ORIGINAL  UPDATED  
 CORRECTED  SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No/Adm.Rule No.  
AB18

Amendment No.

**Subject**

Increasing the maximum permissible length for certain 3-vehicle combinations

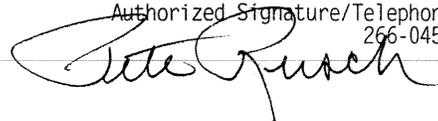
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Fluctuations for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):  
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A. State Costs by Category			
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(FTE Position Changes)		( FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations-Other Costs			-
Local Assistance			-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			-
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>		\$ -0-	\$ - -0-
B. State Costs by Source of Funds		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
GPR		\$	\$ -
FED		\$	\$ -
PRO/PRS		\$	\$ -
SEG/SEG-S		\$	\$ -
III. State Revenues-	Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fees, etc.)	Increased Rev.	Decreased Rev.
GPR Taxes		\$	\$ -
GPR Earned			-
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S		\$2,000	-
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>		\$ 2,000	\$ - -0-

**NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT**

	STATE	LOCAL
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
NET CHANGE IN REVENUES	\$ 2,000	\$ -0-

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)  
Department of Transportation  
Mark Morrison, 266-1675

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.  
  
266-0459

Date  
02/06/97