



2021 SENATE BILL 262

March 31, 2021 - Introduced by Senators JACQUE and FELZKOWSKI, cosponsored by Representatives SORTWELL, MOSES, BROOKS, CABRAL-GUEVARA, CALLAHAN, EDMING, MURSAU, OLDENBURG, SKOWRONSKI, TITTL, WICHGERS and PRONSCHINSKE. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Local Government.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 348.15 (3) (bg) of the statutes; **relating to:** weight limits for
2 certain vehicles transporting maple sap or syrup.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates special highway weight limits for certain vehicles transporting maple sap or syrup.

Under current law, in general, no person may operate on a highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeds certain statutory weight limits unless that person obtains a permit issued by the Department of Transportation or a local highway authority. Among the weight limitations are, generally, limitations on the gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of any one axle or by consecutive axles of the vehicle. In general, the maximum weight that may be imposed on the highway by one axle is 20,000 pounds and the maximum weight that may be imposed on the highway by two axles that are eight or fewer feet apart is 35,000 pounds.

Currently, special higher weight limits are provided for certain vehicles transporting milk or other dairy supplies and products (dairy vehicles). Specifically, for dairy vehicles, the maximum weight that may be imposed on the highway by one axle is 21,000 pounds and the maximum weight that may be imposed on the highway by two axles that are eight or fewer feet apart is 37,000 pounds. Also, for groups of three or more consecutive axles more than nine feet apart on a dairy vehicle, the axles may impose on the highway a weight of 2,000 pounds more than is allowed under general rules. The total weight of the dairy vehicle, however, may not exceed 80,000 pounds.

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This bill extends the special weight limits for dairy vehicles to vehicles transporting maple sap or syrup from the point of collection or production to storage or the primary market.

Under current law, if any bill introduced in either house of the legislature directly or indirectly establishes an exception to vehicle weight limitations, DOT must prepare a report, containing specified information, relating to the bill within six weeks after the bill is introduced and before any vote is taken on the bill. This bill directs DOT not to prepare such a report on this bill.

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 or
5 transporting exclusively maple sap or maple syrup from the point of collection or
6 production to storage or the primary market, the gross weight imposed on the
7 highway by the wheels of any one axle may not exceed 21,000 pounds or, for 2 axles
8 8 or less feet apart, 37,000 pounds or, for groups of 3 or more consecutive axles more
9 than 9 feet apart, a weight of 2,000 pounds more than is shown in par. (c), but not to
10 exceed 80,000 pounds. This paragraph does not apply to the transportation of milk
11 or dairy supplies and dairy products on highways designated as part of the national
12 system of interstate and defense highways, except for the I 39 corridor and the I 41
13 corridor. This paragraph does not apply to the transportation of maple sap or maple
14 syrup on highways designated as part of the national system of interstate and
15 defense highways.

16 **SECTION 2. Nonstatutory provisions.**

