



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

TO: ALL INTERESTED LEGISLATORS

FROM: SENATOR FITZGERALD
REPRESENTATIVE BRANDEMUEHL

RE: LRB 4973/2; Extending maximum length of a semitrailer designed to haul livestock from 48 feet to 50 feet (sec. 348.07)

DATE: February 16, 1996

Current law limits the length of semitrailers hauling livestock to 48 feet which is two feet shorter than the maximum length permitted in most of the surrounding states. Wisconsin livestock carriers, as well as out-of-state livestock carriers, have recently been issued traffic citations for transporting livestock in trailers that exceed the length restriction by two feet.

In the past, motor carriers were often able to accommodate Wisconsin's more restrictive trailer length requirements by physically moving trailer hitches and axles to qualify for one of the many exceptions to the length restrictions. However, livestock trailers, due to the way they are constructed, cannot be modified to comply.

It is also our understanding that most livestock trailer manufacturers build trailers to accommodate the more lenient restrictions of other states. It is therefore more difficult and costly to purchase smaller livestock trailers, and even more difficult for Wisconsin motor carriers to remain competitive with out-of-state carriers if they are required to use smaller trailers.

The Wisconsin Motor Carriers support the bill; and there is no known opposition. It is our understanding that the DOT takes no position on this bill. The DOT may, however, provide assistance on an amendment that will "clean up" other technical inconsistencies within the same statutory section so long as safety concerns are met. The LRB analysis is attached.

Please call either office if you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation no later than Monday, February 19, 1996: Tom Rhatican 266-5660 (Fitzgerald), or Sheri Krause 266-1170 (Brandemuehl).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with specific exceptions, no person may operate on a highway, as part of a 2-vehicle tractor-semitrailer combination, a semitrailer longer than 48 feet unless the person first obtains a permit for excessive vehicle length.

This bill increases the maximum length limit applicable to a semitrailer designed to transport primarily livestock and operated as part of a 2-vehicle tractor-semitrailer combination without a permit for excessive vehicle length, from 48 feet to 50 feet.

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

Wisconsin State Representative
David Brandemuehl
Chair: Highways and Transportation Committee

TO: Rep. Gene Hahn
FROM: Rep. David Brandemuehl *David*
DATE: February 21, 1996
RE: Livestock Trailer Length Bill

I spoke with Joe Maassen of DOT's general counsel regarding your question about grain trailers. I was told that Mark Morrison, a DOT engineer, would call you directly to answer your questions. If he has not done so as of yet, please let me know.

It is my understanding that there are several other vehicles, besides those hauling livestock, which have the same distance problem. However, the DOT is not prepared to offer the supplemental legislation needed to include those other vehicles, in time for consideration this session. It is my intention to go forward with the bill as it is, and make any needed changes next session.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thanks Sheri
Tom

2-16-96



SCOTT FITZGERALD
Wisconsin State Senator
13th Senate District

Attached is a copy of the circulation memo re: LRB 4973 (livestock trailers).

Both companion bills are being turned in today. The following are listed as sponsors:

FITZ
Lasee
Drzewiecki

✓ Brandemuhl
Musser
Lehman
Hahn
Zukowski
Silbaugh
Ryba
Hasmohr

Thx, Tom Rhatigan

Capitol Office: State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • 608-266-5660
District Office: 105 Leonard Ave., Juneau, WI 53039 • Phone & Fax: 414-386-0260
Toll-free Hotline: 1-800-362-9472

PHONE CALL

FOR Shoni DATE 2/23 TIME _____ A.M. P.M.

M Tom

OF Fitzgerald

PHONE _____ AREA CODE _____ NUMBER _____ EXTENSION _____

MESSAGE DOT is "officially"

Supporting the new sub
amendment to the livestock
trailer bill

SIGNED _____

TOPS  FORM 4003

<input type="checkbox"/>	PHONED
<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED YOUR CALL
<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL
<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAME TO SEE YOU
<input type="checkbox"/>	WANTS TO SEE YOU