

Annual Permit for Certain Heavy Agriculture-related Divisible Loads; HB 2095

HB 2095 authorizes the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to issue an annual overweight divisible load operating permit for a truck-tractor semitrailer combination vehicle or a truck-tractor semitrailer, trailer combination vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of more than 85,500 pounds but not more than 90,000 pounds transporting divisible loads on 6 or more axles. The permit will be with respect to highways under the Secretary's jurisdiction, including city connecting links. The fee for the annual permit will be \$200, and collected fees will be deposited into the State Highway Fund. No single-trip permits will be issued.

The bill includes the following restrictions on such operation:

- No operation on the interstate system when loaded in excess of 80,000 pounds;
- Must be registered at the maximum weight category;
- Shall not be operated on any bridge or highway that has a posted gross weight limit or posted axle weight limit less than that at which the vehicle is operating;
- Must comply with weight limits on wheels, axles, and groups of axles, except as otherwise allowed by the bill;
- Cannot violate width, height, and length restrictions in continuing law;
- Must not operate with a total weight of more than 85,500 pounds when highway surfaces have ice or snowpack, or drifting snow; and
- Shall not operate with a total weight of more than 85,500 pounds unless the vehicle is carrying agricultural inputs, farm supplies, biofuels, feed, raw or processed agricultural commodities, livestock, raw meat products intended by the shipper for further processing, or farm products. The bill directs the provisions in this paragraph are to be construed liberally.

The bill requires the permit be carried in the vehicle when the vehicle is operated at a weight of more than 85,500 pounds. The bill specifies maximum loads to be carried on any group of two or more consecutive axles, by distance between those axles and number of axles.

The bill also amends the definition of "triple axles" to increase from 120 inches to 132 inches the maximum distance at which such axles could be spaced apart.