

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 1095**

Chapter 262, Laws of 2001

57th Legislature  
2001 Regular Legislative Session

OVERSIZE LOAD PERMITS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/22/01

Passed by the House April 13, 2001  
Yeas 84 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

CLYDE BALLARD  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 4, 2001  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN  
**President of the Senate**

Approved May 11, 2001

GARY LOCKE  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

We, Timothy A. Martin and Cynthia Zehnder, Co-Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1095** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

CYNTHIA ZEHNDER  
**Chief Clerk**

TIMOTHY A. MARTIN  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 11, 2001 - 9:54 a.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 1095

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2001 Regular Session

State of Washington                      57th Legislature                      2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Mitchell, Fisher and Hankins; by request of  
Department of Transportation

Read first time 01/16/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1        AN ACT Relating to the authority to issue special permits for  
2        oversize or overweight movements; amending RCW 46.44.090 and 46.44.091;  
3        adding a new section to chapter 46.44 RCW; and repealing RCW 46.44.038.

4        BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5        **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.44.090 and 1977 ex.s. c 151 s 30 are each amended  
6        to read as follows:

7        The department of transportation, pursuant to rules adopted by the  
8        transportation commission with respect to state highways, and local  
9        authorities, with respect to public highways under their jurisdiction,  
10       may, upon application in writing and good cause being shown therefor,  
11       issue a special permit in writing, or electronically, authorizing the  
12       applicant to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a  
13       size, weight of vehicle, or load exceeding the maximum (~~specified in~~  
14       ~~this chapter or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this~~  
15       ~~chapter)) set forth in RCW 46.44.010, 46.44.020, 46.44.030, 46.44.034,~~  
16       and 46.44.041 upon any public highway under the jurisdiction of the  
17       authority granting such permit and for the maintenance of which such  
18       authority is responsible.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.44.091 and 1989 c 52 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this  
4 section, no special permit shall be issued for movement on any state  
5 highway or route of a state highway within the limits of any city or  
6 town where the gross weight, including load, exceeds the following  
7 limits:

8       (a) Twenty-two thousand pounds on a single axle or on dual axles  
9 with a wheelbase between the first and second axles of less than three  
10 feet six inches;

11       (b) Forty-three thousand pounds on dual axles having a wheelbase  
12 between the first and second axles of not less than three feet six  
13 inches but less than seven feet;

14       (c) On any group of axles or in the case of a vehicle employing two  
15 single axles with a wheel base between the first and last axle of not  
16 less than seven feet but less than ten feet, a weight in pounds  
17 determined by multiplying six thousand five hundred times the distance  
18 in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last  
19 axle of the group;

20       (d) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and  
21 last axle of not less than ten feet but less than thirty feet, a weight  
22 in pounds determined by multiplying two thousand two hundred times the  
23 sum of twenty and the distance in feet between the center of the first  
24 axle and the center of the last axle of the group;

25       (e) On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and  
26 last axle of thirty feet or greater, a weight in pounds determined by  
27 multiplying one thousand six hundred times the sum of forty and the  
28 distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of  
29 the last axle of the group.

30       (2) The total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles  
31 allowable by special permit under subsection (1) of this section shall  
32 be governed by the lesser of the weights obtained by using the total  
33 number of axles as a group or any combination of axles as a group.

34       (3) The weight limitations pertaining to single axles may be  
35 exceeded to permit the movement of equipment operating upon single  
36 pneumatic tires having a rim width of twenty inches or more and a rim  
37 diameter of twenty-four inches or more or dual pneumatic tires having  
38 a rim width of sixteen inches or more and a rim diameter of twenty-four

1 inches or more and specially designed vehicles manufactured and  
2 certified for special permits prior to July 1, 1975.

3 (4) Permits may be issued for weights in excess of the limitations  
4 contained in subsection (1) of this section on highways or sections of  
5 highways which have been designed and constructed for weights in excess  
6 of such limitations, or for any shipment duly certified as necessary by  
7 military officials, or by officials of public or private power  
8 facilities, or when in the opinion of the department of transportation  
9 the movement or action is a necessary movement or action: PROVIDED,  
10 That in the judgment of the department of transportation the structures  
11 and highway surfaces on the routes involved are capable of sustaining  
12 weights in excess of such limitations and it is not reasonable for  
13 economic or operational considerations to transport such excess weights  
14 by rail or water for any substantial distance of the total mileage  
15 applied for.

16 ~~(5) ((Permits may be issued for the operation of fire trucks on the~~  
17 ~~public highways if the maximum gross weight on any single axle does not~~  
18 ~~exceed twenty-four thousand pounds and the gross weight on any tandem~~  
19 ~~axle does not exceed forty-three thousand pounds.~~

20 (+6+)) Application shall be made in writing on special forms  
21 provided by the department of transportation and shall be submitted at  
22 least thirty-six hours in advance of the proposed movement. An  
23 application for a special permit for a gross weight of any combination  
24 of vehicles exceeding two hundred thousand pounds shall be submitted in  
25 writing to the department of transportation at least thirty days in  
26 advance of the proposed movement.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.44 RCW  
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) As used in this section, "fire-fighting apparatus" means a  
30 vehicle or combination of vehicles, owned by a regularly organized fire  
31 suppression agency, designed, maintained, and used exclusively for fire  
32 suppression and rescue or for fire prevention activities. These  
33 vehicles and associated loads or equipment are necessary to protect the  
34 public safety and are considered nondivisible loads. A vehicle or  
35 combination of vehicles that is not designed primarily for fire  
36 suppression including, but not limited to, a hazardous materials  
37 response vehicle, bus, mobile kitchen, mobile sanitation facility, and

1 heavy equipment transport vehicle is not a fire-fighting apparatus for  
2 purposes of this section.

3 (2) Fire-fighting apparatus must comply with all applicable federal  
4 and state vehicle operating and safety criteria, including rules  
5 adopted by agencies within each jurisdiction.

6 (3) All owners and operators of fire-fighting apparatus shall  
7 comply with current information, available through the department,  
8 regarding the applicable load restrictions of state bridges within the  
9 designated fire service area, including any automatic or mutual aid  
10 agreement areas.

11 (4) Fire-fighting apparatus operating within a fire district  
12 boundary of the owner of the apparatus, including any automatic or  
13 mutual aid agreement areas, may operate without a permit if:

14 (a) The weight does not exceed:

15 (i) 600 pounds per inch width of tire;

16 (ii) 24,000 pounds on a single axle;

17 (iii) 43,000 pounds on a tandem axle set;

18 (iv) 67,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, subject to the gross  
19 weight limits of RCW 46.44.091(1) (c), (d), and (e);

20 (v) The tire manufacturer's tire load rating.

21 (b) There is no tridem axle set.

22 (c) The dimensions do not exceed:

23 (i) 8 feet, 6 inches wide;

24 (ii) 14 feet high;

25 (iii) 50 feet overall length;

26 (iv) 15 foot front overhang;

27 (v) Rear overhang not exceeding the length of the wheel base.

28 (5) The department may grant permits for fire fighting apparatus  
29 that exceed the weight limits in subsection (4) of this section only if  
30 they were put into operation in this state before July 1, 2001. The  
31 department shall issue the permit on an annual basis for the apparatus  
32 to operate within the designated fire service area, including mutual  
33 benefit agreement areas, subject to the applicable load restrictions of  
34 state bridges referred to in subsection (3) of this section and any  
35 other limitations stipulated on the permit. Before issuing a permit,  
36 the department will compare the apparatus to be permitted with the  
37 bridge load ratings for structures on state highways within the  
38 operating area. The permit will denote any structures where access by

1 the apparatus is either based on special operating instructions or is  
2 denied.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.44.038 (Size and combinations  
4 restrictions--Special permits to exceed authorized) and 1983 c 3 s 120  
5 & 1967 ex.s. c 145 s 62 are each repealed.

Passed the House April 13, 2001.

Passed the Senate April 4, 2001.

Approved by the Governor May 11, 2001.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 11, 2001.