

By the Committee on Agriculture; and Senator Baker

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s. 316.515,
3 F.S.; revising restrictions on use of certain agriculture-
4 related vehicles; providing for exemptions from width
5 limitations for certain farming or agricultural equipment;
6 providing conditions for use of such equipment;
7 authorizing certain movements without an overwidth permit
8 from the Department of Transportation; providing lighting
9 requirements for certain overwidth equipment; amending s.
10 316.535, F.S.; providing an exception to the limitation on
11 overall gross weight for vehicles hauling agricultural or
12 forestry products on the Interstate Highway System from
13 the point of production to the first point of marketing or
14 processing; providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 316.515, Florida
19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 316.515 Maximum width, height, length.--

21 (5) IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY AND FARM EQUIPMENT;
22 AGRICULTURAL TRAILERS; FORESTRY EQUIPMENT; SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.--

23 (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, straight
24 trucks, agricultural tractors, and cotton module movers, not
25 exceeding 50 feet in length, or any combination of up to and
26 including three implements of husbandry, including the towing
27 power unit, and any single agricultural trailer with a load
28 thereon or any agricultural implements attached to a towing power
29 unit ~~not exceeding 130 inches in width~~, or a self-propelled

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30 agricultural implement or an agricultural tractor ~~not exceeding~~
31 ~~130 inches in width~~, is authorized for the purpose of
32 transporting peanuts, grains, soybeans, cotton, hay, straw, or
33 other perishable farm products from their point of production to
34 the first point of change of custody or of long-term storage, and
35 for the purpose of returning to such point of production, or for
36 the purpose of moving such tractors, movers, and implements from
37 one point of agricultural production to another, by a person
38 engaged in the production of any such product or custom hauler,
39 if such vehicle or combination of vehicles otherwise complies
40 with this section. ~~The Department of Transportation may issue~~
41 ~~overwidth permits for implements of husbandry greater than 130~~
42 ~~inches, but not more than 170 inches, in width.~~ The Department of
43 Transportation may issue overlength permits for cotton module
44 movers greater than 50 feet but not more than 55 feet in overall
45 length. Such vehicles shall be operated in accordance with all
46 safety requirements prescribed by law and rules of the Department
47 of Transportation.

48 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, equipment
49 not exceeding 136 inches in width and not capable of speeds
50 exceeding 20 miles per hour which is used exclusively for
51 harvesting forestry products is authorized for the purpose of
52 transporting equipment from one point of harvest to another point
53 of harvest, not to exceed 10 miles, by a person engaged in the
54 harvesting of forestry products. Such vehicles must be operated
55 during daylight hours only, in accordance with all safety
56 requirements prescribed by s. 316.2295(5) and (6).

57 (c) The width and height limitations of this section do not
58 apply to farming or agricultural equipment, whether self-

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59 propelled, pulled, or hauled, when temporarily operated during
60 daylight hours upon a public road that is not a limited access
61 facility as defined in s. 334.03(13), and the width and height
62 limitations may be exceeded by such equipment without a permit.
63 To be eligible for this exemption, the equipment shall be
64 operated within a radius of 50 miles of the real property of the
65 equipment owner. However, farming or agricultural equipment
66 greater than 174 inches in width is required to have one warning
67 lamp mounted on each side of the equipment to denote the width
68 and a slow-moving vehicle sign. Warning lamps required by this
69 paragraph are required to be visible from the front and rear of
70 the vehicle and must be visible from a distance of at least 1,000
71 feet.

72 (d) The operator of equipment operated under this
73 subsection is responsible for verifying that the route used has
74 adequate clearance for the equipment.

75 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 316.535, Florida
76 Statutes, is amended to read:

77 316.535 Maximum weights.--

78 (4) With respect to the Interstate Highway System, in all
79 cases in which it exceeds state law in effect on January 4, 1975,
80 the overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive
81 axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles, including all
82 enforcement tolerances, shall be as determined by the following
83 formula:

84
85
$$W = 500((LN / (N-1)) + 12N + 36)$$

86
87 where W = the overall gross weight on any group of two or more

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88 consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds; L = the distance in
89 feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive
90 axles; and N = the number of axles in the group under
91 consideration. Such overall gross weight of any vehicle or
92 combination of vehicles may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including
93 all enforcement tolerances, except that, for a vehicle or
94 combination of vehicles moving agricultural or forestry products
95 from the point of harvest to the first point of marketing or
96 processing when no part of such movement is upon any highway
97 designated as a part of the National System of Interstate and
98 Defense Highways, the vehicle or combination of vehicles may not
99 exceed an overall gross weight of 84,000 pounds, including all
100 enforcement tolerances.

101 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.