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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
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Floor: WD/3R	.	
05/03/2013 03:03 PM	.	
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Senator Evers moved the following:

1           **Senate Amendment to Amendment (740626) (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

3  
4           Delete lines 237 - 294  
5 and insert:

6           Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 316.515, Florida  
7 Statutes, is amended to read:

8           316.515 Maximum width, height, length.—

9           (3) LENGTH LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided in this  
10 section, length limitations apply solely to a semitrailer or  
11 trailer, and not to a truck tractor or to the overall length of  
12 a combination of vehicles. No combination of commercial motor  
13 vehicles coupled together and operating on the public roads may



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14 consist of more than one truck tractor and two trailing units.  
15 Unless otherwise specifically provided for in this section, a  
16 combination of vehicles not qualifying as commercial motor  
17 vehicles may consist of no more than two units coupled together;  
18 such nonqualifying combination of vehicles may not exceed a  
19 total length of 80 ~~65~~ feet with no more than a 5 percent  
20 variance, inclusive of the load carried thereon, but exclusive  
21 of safety and energy conservation devices approved by the  
22 department for use on vehicles using public roads.  
23 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a truck  
24 tractor-semitrailer combination engaged in the transportation of  
25 automobiles or boats may transport motor vehicles or boats on  
26 part of the power unit; and, except as may otherwise be mandated  
27 under federal law, an automobile or boat transporter semitrailer  
28 may not exceed 50 feet in length, exclusive of the load;  
29 however, the load may extend up to an additional 6 feet beyond  
30 the rear of the trailer. The 50-foot length limitation does not  
31 apply to non-stinger-steered automobile or boat transporters  
32 that are 65 feet or less in overall length, exclusive of the  
33 load carried thereon, or to stinger-steered automobile or boat  
34 transporters that are 75 feet or less in overall length,  
35 exclusive of the load carried thereon. For purposes of this  
36 subsection, a "stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter"  
37 is an automobile or boat transporter configured as a semitrailer  
38 combination wherein the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame  
39 located behind and below the rearmost axle of the power unit.  
40 Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), any straight truck or  
41 truck tractor-semitrailer combination engaged in the  
42 transportation of horticultural trees may allow the load to



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43 extend up to an additional 10 feet beyond the rear of the  
44 vehicle, provided said trees are resting against a retaining bar  
45 mounted above the truck bed so that the root balls of the trees  
46 rest on the floor and to the front of the truck bed and the tops  
47 of the trees extend up over and to the rear of the truck bed,  
48 and provided the overhanging portion of the load is covered with  
49 protective fabric.

50 (a) *Straight trucks.*—A straight truck may not exceed a  
51 length of 40 feet in extreme overall dimension, exclusive of  
52 safety and energy conservation devices approved by the  
53 department for use on vehicles using public roads. A straight  
54 truck may attach a forklift to the rear of the cargo bed,  
55 provided the overall combined length of the vehicle and the  
56 forklift does not exceed 50 feet. A straight truck may tow no  
57 more than one trailer, and the overall length of the truck-  
58 trailer combination may not exceed 68 feet, including the load  
59 thereon. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a  
60 truck-trailer combination engaged in the transportation of  
61 boats, or boat trailers whose design dictates a front-to-rear  
62 stacking method may not exceed the length limitations of this  
63 paragraph exclusive of the load; however, the load may extend up  
64 to an additional 6 feet beyond the rear of the trailer.

65 (b) *Semitrailers.*—

66 1. A semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer  
67 combination may not exceed 48 feet in extreme overall outside  
68 dimension, measured from the front of the unit to the rear of  
69 the unit and the load carried thereon, exclusive of safety and  
70 energy conservation devices approved by the department for use  
71 on vehicles using public roads, unless it complies with



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72 subparagraph 2. A semitrailer which exceeds 48 feet in length  
73 and is used to transport divisible loads may operate in this  
74 state only if issued a permit under s. 316.550 and if such  
75 trailer meets the requirements of this chapter relating to  
76 vehicle equipment and safety. Except for highways on the tandem  
77 trailer truck highway network, public roads deemed unsafe for  
78 longer semitrailer vehicles or those roads on which such longer  
79 vehicles are determined not to be in the interest of public  
80 convenience shall, in conformance with s. 316.006, be restricted  
81 by the Department of Transportation or by the local authority to  
82 use by semitrailers not exceeding a length of 48 feet, inclusive  
83 of the load carried thereon but exclusive of safety and energy  
84 conservation devices approved by the department for use on  
85 vehicles using public roads. Truck tractor-semitrailer  
86 combinations shall be afforded reasonable access to terminals;  
87 facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; and points of  
88 loading and unloading.

89 2. A semitrailer which is more than 48 feet but not more  
90 than 53 feet in extreme overall outside dimension, as measured  
91 pursuant to subparagraph 1., may operate on public roads, except  
92 roads on the State Highway System which are restricted by the  
93 Department of Transportation or other roads restricted by local  
94 authorities, if:

95 a. The distance between the kingpin or other peg that locks  
96 into the fifth wheel of a truck tractor and the center of the  
97 rear axle or rear group of axles does not exceed 41 feet, or, in  
98 the case of a semitrailer used exclusively or primarily to  
99 transport vehicles in connection with motorsports competition  
100 events, the distance does not exceed 46 feet from the kingpin to



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101 the center of the rear axles; and

102 b. It is equipped with a substantial rear-end underride  
103 protection device meeting the requirements of 49 C.F.R. s.  
104 393.86, "Rear End Protection."

105 (c) *Tandem trailer trucks.*—

106 1. Except for semitrailers and trailers of up to 28 1/2  
107 feet in length which existed on December 1, 1982, and which were  
108 actually and lawfully operating on that date, no semitrailer or  
109 trailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer  
110 combination may exceed a length of 28 feet in extreme overall  
111 outside dimension, measured from the front of the unit to the  
112 rear of the unit and the load carried thereon, exclusive of  
113 safety and energy conservation devices approved by the  
114 Department of Transportation for use on vehicles using public  
115 roads.

116 2. Tandem trailer trucks conforming to the weight and size  
117 limitations of this chapter and in immediate transit to or from  
118 a terminal facility as defined in this chapter may operate on  
119 the public roads of this state except for residential  
120 neighborhood streets restricted by the Department of  
121 Transportation or local jurisdictions. In addition, the  
122 Department of Transportation or local jurisdictions may restrict  
123 these vehicles from using streets and roads under their  
124 maintenance responsibility on the basis of safety and  
125 engineering analyses, provided that the restrictions are  
126 consistent with the provisions of this chapter. The Department  
127 of Transportation shall develop safety and engineering standards  
128 to be used by all jurisdictions when identifying public roads  
129 and streets to be restricted from tandem trailer truck



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130 operations.

131       3. Except as otherwise provided in this section, within 5  
132 miles of the Federal National Network for large trucks, tandem  
133 trailer trucks shall be afforded access to terminals; facilities  
134 for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; and points of loading and  
135 unloading.

136       4. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special  
137 law to the contrary, all local system tandem trailer truck route  
138 review procedures must be consistent with those adopted by the  
139 Department of Transportation.

140       5. Tandem trailer trucks employed as household goods  
141 carriers and conforming to the weight and size limitations of  
142 this chapter shall be afforded access to points of loading and  
143 unloading on the public streets and roads of this state, except  
144 for streets and roads that have been restricted from use by such  
145 vehicles on the basis of safety and engineering analyses by the  
146 jurisdiction responsible for maintenance of the streets and  
147 roads.

148       (d) *Maxi-cube vehicles.*—Maxi-cube vehicles shall be allowed  
149 to operate on routes open to tandem trailer trucks under the  
150 same conditions applicable to tandem trailer trucks as specified  
151 by this section.

152  
153 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

154 And the title is amended as follows:

155       Between lines 4405 and 4406

156 insert:

157       increasing length limitations for combinations of  
158       noncommercial motor vehicles;