



327418

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: WD/2R

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03/10/2016 05:51 PM

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Senator Simpson moved the following:

1           **Senate Amendment to Amendment (588642) (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

3  
4           Between lines 737 and 738  
5 insert:

6           Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
7 316.515, Florida 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



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12 a combination of vehicles. No combination of commercial motor  
13 vehicles coupled together and operating on the public roads may  
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 65 feet, inclusive of the load carried thereon,  
20 but exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices approved  
21 by the department for use on vehicles using public roads.  
22 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a truck  
23 tractor-semitrailer combination engaged in the transportation of  
24 automobiles or boats may transport motor vehicles or boats on  
25 part of the power unit; and, except as may otherwise be mandated  
26 under federal law, an automobile or boat transporter semitrailer  
27 may not exceed 50 feet in length, exclusive of the load;  
28 however, the load may extend up to an additional 6 feet beyond  
29 the rear of the trailer. The 50-foot length limitation does not  
30 apply to non-stinger-steered automobile or boat transporters  
31 that are 65 feet or less in overall length, exclusive of the  
32 load carried thereon, or to stinger-steered automobile or boat  
33 transporters that are 75 feet or less in overall length,  
34 exclusive of the load carried thereon. For purposes of this  
35 subsection, a "stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter"  
36 is an automobile or boat transporter configured as a semitrailer  
37 combination wherein the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame  
38 located behind and below the rearmost axle of the power unit.  
39 Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), any straight truck or  
40 truck tractor-semitrailer combination engaged in the



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

49 (b) *Semitrailers.*—

50 1. A semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer  
51 combination may not exceed 48 feet in extreme overall outside  
52 dimension, measured from the front of the unit to the rear of  
53 the unit and the load carried thereon, exclusive of safety and  
54 energy conservation devices approved by the department for use  
55 on vehicles using public roads, unless it complies with  
56 subparagraph 2. A semitrailer which exceeds 48 feet in length  
57 and is used to transport divisible loads may operate in this  
58 state only if issued a permit under s. 316.550 and if such  
59 trailer meets the requirements of this chapter relating to  
60 vehicle equipment and safety. Except for highways on the tandem  
61 trailer truck highway network, public roads deemed unsafe for  
62 longer semitrailer vehicles or those roads on which such longer  
63 vehicles are determined not to be in the interest of public  
64 convenience shall, in conformance with s. 316.006, be restricted  
65 by the Department of Transportation or by the local authority to  
66 use by semitrailers not exceeding a length of 48 feet, inclusive  
67 of the load carried thereon but exclusive of safety and energy  
68 conservation devices approved by the department for use on  
69 vehicles using public roads. Truck tractor-semitrailer



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70 combinations shall be afforded reasonable access to terminals;  
71 facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; and points of  
72 loading and unloading.

73 2. A semitrailer which is more than 48 feet but not more  
74 than 57 ~~53~~ feet in extreme overall outside dimension, as  
75 measured pursuant to subparagraph 1., may operate on public  
76 roads, except roads on the State Highway System which are  
77 restricted by the Department of Transportation or other roads  
78 restricted by local authorities, if:

79 a. The distance between the kingpin or other peg that locks  
80 into the fifth wheel of a truck tractor and the center of the  
81 rear axle or rear group of axles does not exceed 41 feet, or, in  
82 the case of a semitrailer used exclusively or primarily to  
83 transport vehicles in connection with motorsports competition  
84 events, the distance does not exceed 46 feet from the kingpin to  
85 the center of the rear axles; and

86 b. It is equipped with a substantial rear-end underride  
87 protection device meeting the requirements of 49 C.F.R. s.  
88 393.86, "Rear End Protection."  
89

90 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

91 And the title is amended as follows:

92 Delete line 2909

93 and insert:

94 in vehicles; amending s. 316.515, F.S.; extending the  
95 allowable length of certain semitrailers authorized to  
96 operate on public roads under certain conditions;  
97 amending s. 316.640, F.S.; expanding the