



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FINAL AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2251

commercial motor vehicles

Purpose

Makes various changes to gross weight and length restrictions for commercial vehicles and modifies requirements for the disqualification of a commercial driver license or instruction permit.

Background

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the goal of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Act) is to improve highway safety by ensuring that drivers of large trucks and buses are qualified to operate those vehicles and to remove unsafe and unqualified drivers from the highways. The Act grants states the right to issue a commercial driver license and the Federal Highway Administration develops and issues standards for testing and licensing commercial drivers.

The Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) is one of six divisions within the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). Among several responsibilities, the MVD issues driver licenses, vehicle titles, and other related permits for the State of Arizona. The MVD issues six classes of driver license valid for operating various types of vehicles and designates qualified licensees for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle (A.R.S. Title 28, Chapter 8).

The *gross weight* of a motor vehicle imposed on the highway is determined by the sum of the empty weight in pounds of a motor vehicle combination plus the weight in pounds of the maximum load to be carried on the motor vehicle combination at any one time (A.R.S. §§ 28-601 and 28-5431). Statute limits the maximum gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels on any one axle to not greater than 20,000 pounds unless issued a special permit by ADOT.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires ADOT to disqualify a commercial motor vehicle driver license or instruction permit holder from driving a commercial motor vehicle for:
 - a) at least one year if the license or permit holder is convicted of fraud related to the issuance of the permit or license; or

- b) at least 60 consecutive days if the license or permit holder falsifies information or documentation as part of the licensing process.
2. Adds that a disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle begins 10 days after ADOT receives the report of conviction or finding of responsibility for a commercial motor vehicle driver license or instruction permit holder.
3. Specifies that a commercial instruction permit holder is included in disqualifications from driving a commercial motor vehicle under certain violations.
4. Allows a vehicle transporter to transport cargo or general freight if the vehicle transporter is in compliance with gross weight restrictions.
5. Allows an over-the-road bus to exceed the maximum single axle weight limit of gross weight imposed on the highway, if the gross weight does not exceed 24,000 pounds.
6. Increases the permitted length restriction for a vehicle transporter and semitrailer combination from 75 to 80 feet and prohibits the front overhang from exceeding 4 feet and the rear overhang from exceeding 6 feet.
7. Allows the gross weight of a vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily natural gas to exceed the maximum gross weight limit for a single axle but may not exceed the lesser of 82,000 pounds or the difference between the weight of the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.
8. Authorizes the Department of Public Safety to adopt and implement rules to regulate interstate movement of household goods.
9. Reduces the length of time a temporary international proportional registration or a temporary alternative proportional registration is valid from 90 days to 60 days.
10. Defines *over-the-road bus* as a bus characterized by an elevated passenger deck over a baggage compartment.
11. Defines *backhaul* as the return trip of a vehicle transporter carrying cargo or general freight over all or part of the same route.
12. Makes technical and conforming changes.
13. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Authorizes the Department of Public Safety to adopt and implement rules to regulate interstate movement of household goods.

2. Increases the permitted length restriction for a vehicle transporter and semitrailer combination from 75 to 80 feet and prohibits the front overhang from exceeding 4 feet and the rear overhang from exceeding 6 feet.
3. Allows a vehicle transporter to transport cargo or general freight if the vehicle transporter is in compliance with gross weight restrictions.
4. Allows the gross weight of a vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily natural gas to exceed the maximum gross weight limit for a single axle but may not exceed the lesser of 82,000 pounds or the difference between the weight of the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.
5. Defines *backhaul* as the return trip of a vehicle transporter carrying cargo or general freight over all or part of the same route.
6. Makes conforming changes.

House Action

TI	1/26/16	DP	9-0-0-0
3 rd Read	2/16/16		60-0-0
Final Read	3/17/16		56-0-4

Senate Action

TRANS	2/23/16	DP	7-0-1
3 rd Read	3/16/16		28-1-1

Signed by the Governor 3/18/16

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Prepared by Senate Research

March 24, 2016

KN/lr