SENATE BILL No. 375

By Committee on Transportation

2-5

AN ACT regulating traffic; relating to length of vehicles, certain vehicle combinations; gross weight limits, emergency vehicles; amending K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 8-1904 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding any other laws to the contrary, an emergency vehicle may operate at a gross weight not exceeding 86,000 pounds, subject to a maximum weight of:

(1) 24,000 pounds on a single steering axle;
(2) 33,500 pounds on a single drive axle;
(3) 62,000 pounds on a tandem axle;
(4) 52,000 pounds on a tandem rear drive steer axle.

(b) As used in this section, "emergency vehicle" means a vehicle designed to be used under emergency conditions to:
(1) Transport personnel and equipment; and
(2) support the suppression of fires and mitigation of other hazardous situations.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 8-1904 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-1904. (a) No vehicle including any load thereon shall exceed a height of 14 feet, except that a vehicle transporting cylindrically shaped bales of hay as authorized by K.S.A. 8-1902(e), and amendments thereto, may be loaded with such bales secured to a height not exceeding 14 1/2 feet. Should a vehicle so loaded with bales strike any overpass or other obstacle, the operator of the vehicle shall be liable for all damages resulting therefrom. The secretary of transportation may adopt rules and regulations for the movement of such loads of cylindrically shaped bales of hay.

(b) No motor vehicle including the load thereon shall exceed a length of 45 feet extreme overall dimension, excluding the front and rear bumpers, except as provided in subsection (d).

(c) Except as otherwise provided in K.S.A. 8-1914 and 8-1915, and amendments thereto, and subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) and (j), no combination of vehicles coupled together shall exceed a total length of 65 feet.

(d) The length limitations in subsection (b) shall not apply to a truck tractor. No semitrailer which is being operated in combination with a truck tractor.
tractor shall exceed 59 1/2 feet in length. No semitrailer or trailer which is
being operated in a combination consisting of a truck tractor, semitrailer
and trailer shall exceed 28 1/2 feet in length.

(e) The limitations in this section governing maximum length of a
semitrailer or trailer shall not apply to vehicles operating in the daytime
when transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of a structural
nature which cannot readily be dismembered, except that it shall be
unlawful to operate any such vehicle or combination of vehicles which
exceeds a total length of 85 feet unless a special permit for such operation
has been issued by the secretary of transportation or by an agent or
designee of the secretary pursuant to K.S.A. 8-1911, and amendments
thereto. For the purpose of authorizing the issuance of such special permits
at motor carrier inspection stations, the secretary of transportation may
contract with the superintendent of the Kansas highway patrol for such
purpose, and in such event, the superintendent or any designee of the
superintendent may issue such special permit pursuant to the terms and
conditions of the contract. The limitations in this section shall not apply to
vehicles transporting such objects operated at nighttime by a public utility
when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or
properties or when operated under special permit as provided in K.S.A. 8-
1911, and amendments thereto, but in respect to such night transportation
every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient
number of clearance lamps on both sides and marker lamps upon the
extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of
such load.

(f) The limitations of this section governing the maximum length of
combinations of vehicles shall not apply to a combination of vehicles
consisting of a truck tractor towing a house trailer, if such combination of
vehicles does not exceed an overall length of 97 feet.

(g) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to stinger-
steered automobile or boat transporters or one truck and one trailer vehicle
combination, loaded or unloaded, used in transporting a combine, forage
cutter or combine header to be engaged in farm custom harvesting
operations, as defined in K.S.A. 8-143j(d), and amendments thereto. A
stinger-steered boat transporter or one truck and one trailer vehicle
combination, loaded or unloaded, used in transporting a combine, forage
cutter or combine header to be engaged in farm custom harvesting
operations, as defined in K.S.A. 8-143j(d), and amendments thereto, shall
not exceed an overall length limit of 75 feet, exclusive of front and rear
overhang. A stinger-steered automobile transporter shall not exceed an
overall length limit of 80 feet, exclusive of front and rear overhang.

(h) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to drive-away
saddlemount or drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle
transporter combination. A drive-away saddlemount or drive-away saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combination shall not exceed an extreme overall dimension of 97 feet.

(i) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to a one truck-tractor two trailer combination or one truck-tractor semitrailer trailer combination used in transporting equipment utilized by custom harvesters under contract to agricultural producers to harvest wheat, soybeans or milo, during the months of April through November, but the length of the property-carrying units, excluding load, shall not exceed $81\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

(j) The length limitations of this section shall not apply to a towaway trailer transporter combination consisting of a trailer transporter towing unit and two trailers or semitrailers with a total weight not exceeding 26,000 pounds and in which the trailers or semitrailers carry no property and constitute inventory property of a manufacturer, distributor or dealer of such trailers or semitrailers. Such towaway trailer transporter combination shall not exceed a length of 82 feet. As used in this subsection, "a trailer transporting towing unit" means a power unit that is not used to carry property when operating in a towaway trailer transporter combination.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 8-1904 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.