

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Agriculture and Transportation Committee)

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-12-23 of the North Dakota Century Code,~~
2 ~~relating to a governor's order authorizing excess limits regarding road trains.~~for an Act to
3 provide for a department of transportation long combination vehicle study and pilot projects; and
4 to provide for a legislative management report.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 ~~— **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-12-23 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
7 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

8 ~~— **39-12-23. Governor's order authorizing excess limits.**~~

9 ~~— 1. The governor of this state is hereby authorized, by order of general application, to may~~
10 ~~permit and prescribe definite excess limitations as to size and weight for:~~

11 ~~— a. For the operation of motor vehicles in emergencies;~~

12 ~~— b. For the operation of road trains; and to~~

13 ~~— c. To meet unusual conditions for the general welfare of the public.~~

14 ~~— 2. The operation of such vehicles, in accordance with the governor's order, does not~~
15 ~~constitute a violation of the statutes relative to limitations on sizes and weights except~~
16 ~~an order permitting excess length limitations for the operation of road trains may not~~
17 ~~exceed the single axle gross weight limitations as established by this chapter.~~

18 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LONG COMBINATION VEHICLE**
19 **STUDY AND PILOT PROJECTS - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

20 1. During the 2021-22 interim, the department of transportation shall study and conduct
21 pilot projects on the feasibility and impact of long combination vehicle operations on
22 North Dakota roadways. The study must include:

- 1 a. An assessment of the federal regulations impacting long combination vehicle
- 2 operations beyond the configurations currently allowed, including configuration
- 3 combinations allowed in Canada and other jurisdictions;
- 4 b. An evaluation of the economic impact of permitting long combination vehicle
- 5 operations in the state;
- 6 c. An assessment of the impact long combination vehicle operations would have on
- 7 North Dakota bridges and structures;
- 8 d. An assessment and evaluation of road networks that are compatible with certain
- 9 long combination vehicle configurations, or with minor modifications, not
- 10 exceeding one hundred thirty feet of cargo carrying capacity unless approved by
- 11 the director of the department of transportation;
- 12 e. Implementing pilot project safety guidelines that include protocols for traffic safety
- 13 and inclement weather operations;
- 14 f. An assessment of the costs associated with implementing long combination
- 15 vehicle operations; and
- 16 g. An examination of the size and weight provisions provided under chapter 39-12.
- 17 2. If a pilot project includes operating on county, city, or township roads, an agreement
- 18 with local road authorities must be in place to address traffic safety considerations and
- 19 costs directly attributed to the pilot project.
- 20 3. The director of the department of transportation may waive certain statutory size and
- 21 weight restrictions for the pilot projects.
- 22 4. The department of transportation may continue any pilot project commenced under
- 23 subsection 1 until the department determines sufficient information has been gathered
- 24 to determine the pilot project is no longer necessary.
- 25 5. Before August 1, 2022, the department of transportation shall report its findings and
- 26 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
- 27 recommendations, to the legislative management.