

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 977

Introduced by Smith, 14; Williams, 36.

Read first time January 14, 2016

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Rules of the Road; to amend
2 sections 60-6,144 and 60-6,294, Reissue Revised Statutes of
3 Nebraska, and section 60-601, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015; to
4 change provisions relating to the operation of implements of
5 husbandry on highways; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the
6 original sections.
7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 60-601, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2015, is
2 amended to read:

3 60-601 Sections 60-601 to 60-6,382 and section 2 of this act shall
4 be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Rules of the Road.

5 Sec. 2. (1) An implement of husbandry being operated on any highway
6 of this state, except the National System of Interstate and Defense
7 Highways, shall be exempt from the weight and load limitations of
8 subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 60-6,294.

9 (2) For purposes of this section, an implement of husbandry includes
10 (a) a farm tractor, (b) self-propelled equipment designed and used
11 exclusively to carry and apply fertilizer, chemicals, or related products
12 to agricultural soil or crops, (c) an agricultural floater-spreader
13 implement as defined in section 60-303, (d) a fertilizer spreader, nurse
14 tank, or truck permanently mounted with a spreader used for spreading or
15 injecting water, dust, or liquid fertilizers or agricultural chemicals,
16 (e) a truck mounted with a fertilizer spreader used or manufactured to
17 spread or inject animal manure, and (f) a mixer-feed truck owned and used
18 by a livestock-raising operation designed for and used for the feeding of
19 livestock.

20 Sec. 3. Section 60-6,144, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
21 amended to read:

22 60-6,144 Use of a freeway and entry thereon by the following shall
23 be prohibited at all times except by permit from the Department of Roads
24 or from the local authority in the case of freeways not under the
25 jurisdiction of the department:

26 (1) Pedestrians except in areas specifically designated for that
27 purpose;

28 (2) Hitchhikers or walkers;

29 (3) Vehicles not self-propelled;

30 (4) Bicycles, motor-driven cycles, motor scooters not having motors
31 of more than ten horsepower, and electric personal assistive mobility

1 devices;

2 (5) Animals led, driven on the hoof, ridden, or drawing a vehicle;

3 (6) Funeral processions;

4 (7) Parades or demonstrations;

5 (8) Vehicles, except emergency vehicles, unable to maintain minimum
6 speed as provided in the Nebraska Rules of the Road;

7 (9) Construction equipment;

8 (10) Implements of husbandry, whether self-propelled or towed,
9 except as provided in section 2 of this act;

10 (11) Vehicles with improperly secured attachments or loads;

11 (12) Vehicles in tow, when the connection consists of a chain, rope,
12 or cable, except disabled vehicles which shall be removed from such
13 freeway at the nearest interchange;

14 (13) Vehicles with deflated pneumatic, metal, or solid tires or
15 continuous metal treads except maintenance vehicles;

16 (14) Any person standing on or near a roadway for the purpose of
17 soliciting or selling to an occupant of any vehicle; or

18 (15) Overdimensional vehicles.

19 Sec. 4. Section 60-6,294, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
20 amended to read:

21 60-6,294 (1) Every vehicle, whether operated singly or in a
22 combination of vehicles, and every combination of vehicles shall comply
23 with subsections (2) and (3) of this section except as provided in
24 sections 60-6,294.01 and 60-6,297 and section 2 of this act. The
25 limitations imposed by this section shall be supplemental to all other
26 provisions imposing limitations upon the size and weight of vehicles.

27 (2) No wheel of a vehicle or trailer equipped with pneumatic or
28 solid rubber tires shall carry a gross load in excess of ten thousand
29 pounds on any highway nor shall any axle carry a gross load in excess of
30 twenty thousand pounds on any highway. An axle load shall be defined as
31 the total load transmitted to the highway by all wheels the centers of

1 which may be included between two parallel transverse vertical planes
2 forty inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

3 (3) No group of two or more consecutive axles shall carry a load in
4 pounds in excess of the value given in the following table corresponding
5 to the distance in feet between the extreme axles of the group, measured
6 longitudinally to the nearest foot, except that the maximum load carried
7 on any group of two or more axles shall not exceed eighty thousand pounds
8 on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways unless the
9 Director-State Engineer pursuant to section 60-6,295 authorizes a greater
10 weight.

11	Distance in feet	Maximum load in pounds carried					
12	between the	on any group of two or more					
13	extremes of	consecutive axles					
14	any group of						
15	two or more						
16	consecutive	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven
17	axles	Axles	Axles	Axles	Axles	Axles	Axles
18	4	34,000					
19	5	34,000					
20	6	34,000					
21	7	34,000					
22	8	34,000	42,000				
23	9	39,000	42,500				
24	10	40,000	43,500				
25	11		44,000				
26	12		45,000	50,000			
27	13		45,500	50,500			
28	14		46,500	51,500			
29	15		47,000	52,000			
30	16		48,000	52,500	58,000		

1	17	48,500	53,500	58,500		
2	18	49,500	54,000	59,000		
3	19	50,000	54,500	60,000		
4	20	51,000	55,500	60,500		
5	21	51,500	56,000	61,000		
6	22	52,500	56,500	61,500		
7	23	53,000	57,500	62,500		
8	24	54,000	58,000	63,000		
9	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	
10	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	
11	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	
12	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	
13	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	
14	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	
15	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	
16	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	
17	33		64,000	68,500	74,000	
18	34		64,500	69,000	74,500	
19	35		65,500	70,000	75,000	
20	36		66,000	70,500	75,500	
21	37		66,500	71,000	76,000	81,500
22	38		67,500	72,000	77,000	82,000
23	39		68,000	72,500	77,500	82,500
24	40		68,500	73,000	78,000	83,500
25	41		69,500	73,500	78,500	84,000
26	42		70,000	74,000	79,000	84,500
27	43		70,500	75,000	80,000	85,000
28	44		71,500	75,500	80,500	85,500
29	45		72,000	76,000	81,000	86,000
30	46		72,500	76,500	81,500	87,000

1	47	73,500	77,500	82,000	87,500
2	48	74,000	78,000	83,000	88,000
3	49	74,500	78,500	83,500	88,500
4	50	75,500	79,000	84,000	89,000
5	51	76,000	80,000	84,500	89,500
6	52	76,500	80,500	85,000	90,500
7	53	77,500	81,000	86,000	91,000
8	54	78,000	81,500	86,500	91,500
9	55	78,500	82,500	87,000	92,000
10	56	79,500	83,000	87,500	92,500
11	57	80,000	83,500	88,000	93,000
12	58		84,000	89,000	94,000
13	59		85,000	89,500	94,500
14	60		85,500	90,000	95,000

15 (4) The distance between axles shall be measured to the nearest
16 foot. When a fraction is exactly one-half foot, the next larger whole
17 number shall be used, except that:

18 (a) Any group of three axles shall be restricted to a maximum load
19 of thirty-four thousand pounds unless the distance between the extremes
20 of the first and third axles is at least ninety-six inches in fact; and

21 (b) The maximum gross load on any group of two axles, the distance
22 between the extremes of which is more than eight feet but less than eight
23 feet six inches, shall be thirty-eight thousand pounds.

24 (5) The limitations of subsections (2) through (4) of this section
25 shall apply as stated to all main, rural, and intercity highways but
26 shall not be construed as inhibiting heavier axle loads in metropolitan
27 areas, except on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways,
28 if such loads are not prohibited by city ordinance.

29 (6) The weight limitations of wheel and axle loads as defined in
30 subsections (2) through (4) of this section shall be restricted to the
31 extent deemed necessary by the Department of Roads for a reasonable

1 period when road subgrades or pavements are weak or are materially
2 weakened by climatic conditions.

3 (7) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of
4 thirty-four thousand pounds each when the overall distance between the
5 first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-
6 six, thirty-seven, or thirty-eight feet except as provided in section
7 60-6,297. Such vehicles shall be subject to section 60-6,301.

8 (8) If any vehicle crosses a bridge with a total gross load in
9 excess of the posted capacity of such bridge and as a result of such
10 crossing any damage results to the bridge, the owner of such vehicle
11 shall be responsible for all of such damage.

12 (9) Vehicles equipped with a greater number of axles than provided
13 in the tables in subsection (3) of this section shall be legal if they do
14 not exceed the maximum load upon any wheel or axle, the maximum load upon
15 any group of two or more consecutive axles, and the total gross weight,
16 or any of such weights as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this
17 section.

18 (10) Subsections (1) through (9) of this section shall not apply to
19 a vehicle which has been issued a permit pursuant to section 60-6,299,
20 self-propelled specialized mobile equipment with a fixed load when the
21 requirements of subdivision (2)(i) of section 60-6,288 are met, or an
22 emergency vehicle when the requirements of subdivision (1)(a)(v) of
23 section 60-6,298 are met.

24 (11) Any two consecutive axles the centers of which are more than
25 forty inches and not more than ninety-six inches apart, measured to the
26 nearest inch between any two adjacent axles in the series, shall be
27 defined as tandem axles, and the gross weight transmitted to the road
28 surface through such series shall not exceed thirty-four thousand pounds.
29 No axle of the series shall exceed the maximum weight permitted under
30 this section for a single axle.

31 (12) Dummy axles shall be disregarded in determining the lawful

1 weight of a vehicle or vehicle combination for operation on the highway.
2 Dummy axle shall mean an axle attached to a vehicle or vehicle
3 combination in a manner so that it does not articulate or substantially
4 equalize the load and does not carry at least the lesser of eight
5 thousand pounds or eight percent of the gross weight of the vehicle or
6 vehicle combination.

7 (13) The maximum gross weight limit and the axle weight limit for
8 any vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with idle reduction
9 technology may be increased by an amount necessary to compensate for the
10 additional weight of the idle reduction technology as provided in 23
11 U.S.C. 127(a)(12), as such section existed on July 18, 2008. The
12 additional amount of weight allowed by this subsection shall not exceed
13 four hundred pounds and shall not be construed to be in addition to the
14 five-percent-in-excess-of-maximum-load provision of subdivision (1) of
15 section 60-6,301.

16 Sec. 5. Original sections 60-6,144 and 60-6,294, Reissue Revised
17 Statutes of Nebraska, and section 60-601, Revised Statutes Supplement,
18 2015, are repealed.