

AMENDMENTS TO LB561

Introduced by Transportation and Telecommunications.

1           1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3           **Section 1.** Section 60-601, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
4 2024, is amended to read:

5           60-601 Sections 60-601 to 60-6,383 and section 4 of this act shall  
6 be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Rules of the Road.

7           **Sec. 2.** Section 60-6,290, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
8 2024, is amended to read:

9           60-6,290 (1)(a) No vehicle shall exceed a length of forty feet,  
10 extreme overall dimensions, inclusive of front and rear bumpers including  
11 load, except that:

12           (i) A bus or a motor home, as defined in section 71-4603, may exceed  
13 the forty-foot limitation but shall not exceed a length of forty-five  
14 feet;

15           (ii) A truck-tractor may exceed the forty-foot limitation;

16           (iii) A semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor single semitrailer  
17 combination, which semitrailer was actually and lawfully operating in the  
18 State of Nebraska on December 1, 1982, may exceed the forty-foot  
19 limitation;

20           (iv) A semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor single semitrailer  
21 combination, which semitrailer was not actually and lawfully operating in  
22 the State of Nebraska on December 1, 1982, may exceed the forty-foot  
23 limitation but shall not exceed a length of fifty-three feet including  
24 load;

25           (v) A semitrailer operating in a truck-tractor single semitrailer  
26 combination, while transporting baled livestock forage, may exceed the  
27 forty-foot limitation but shall not exceed a length of fifty-nine feet

1 six inches including load;

2 (vi) An articulated bus vehicle operated by a transit authority  
3 established under the Transit Authority Law or regional metropolitan  
4 transit authority established pursuant to section 18-804 may exceed the  
5 forty-foot limitation. For purposes of this subdivision (vi), an  
6 articulated bus vehicle shall not exceed sixty-five feet in length; and

7 (vii) A truck may exceed the forty-foot limitation but shall not  
8 exceed a length of forty-five feet.

9 (b) No combination of vehicles shall exceed a length of sixty-five  
10 feet, extreme overall dimensions, inclusive of front and rear bumpers and  
11 including load, except:

12 (i) One truck and one trailer, loaded or unloaded, used in  
13 transporting implements of husbandry to be engaged in harvesting, while  
14 being transported into or through the state during daylight hours if the  
15 total length does not exceed seventy-five feet including load;

16 (ii) A truck-tractor single semitrailer combination;

17 (iii) A truck-tractor semitrailer trailer combination, but the  
18 semitrailer trailer portion of such combination shall not exceed sixty-  
19 five feet inclusive of connective devices;

20 (iv) A driveaway saddlemount vehicle transporter combination and  
21 driveaway saddlemount with fullmount vehicle transporter combination, but  
22 the total overall length shall not exceed ninety-seven feet;

23 (v) A stinger-steered automobile transporter, but the total overall  
24 length shall not exceed eighty feet, inclusive of a front overhang of  
25 less than four feet and a rear overhang of less than six feet. For  
26 purposes of this subdivision, automobile transporter means any vehicle  
27 combination designed and used for the transport of assembled highway  
28 vehicles, including truck camper units. An automobile transporter shall  
29 not be prohibited from the transport of cargo or general freight on a  
30 backhaul, so long as it is in compliance with weight limitations for a  
31 truck-tractor and semitrailer combination; and

1 (vi) A towaway trailer transporter combination, but the total  
2 overall length shall not exceed eighty-two feet. For purposes of this  
3 subdivision, towaway trailer transporter combination means a combination  
4 of vehicles consisting of a trailer transporter towing unit and two  
5 trailers or semitrailers with a total weight that does not exceed twenty-  
6 six thousand pounds, and in which the trailers or semitrailers carry no  
7 property and constitute inventory property of a manufacturer,  
8 distributor, or dealer of such trailers or semitrailers.

9 (c) A truck shall be construed to be one vehicle for the purpose of  
10 determining length.

11 (d) A trailer shall be construed to be one vehicle for the purpose  
12 of determining length.

13 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to:

14 (a) Extra-long vehicles which have been issued a permit pursuant to  
15 section 60-6,292;

16 (b) Vehicles which have been issued a permit pursuant to section  
17 60-6,299;

18 (c) The temporary moving of farm machinery during daylight hours in  
19 the normal course of farm operations;

20 (d) The movement of unbaled livestock forage vehicles, loaded or  
21 unloaded;

22 (e) The movement of public utility or other construction and  
23 maintenance material and equipment at any time;

24 (f) Farm equipment dealers or their representatives as authorized  
25 under section 60-6,382 driving, delivering, or picking up farm equipment  
26 or implements of husbandry within the county in which the dealer  
27 maintains his or her place of business, or in any adjoining county or  
28 counties, and return;

29 (g) The overhang of any motor vehicle being hauled upon any lawful  
30 combination of vehicles, but such overhang shall not exceed the distance  
31 from the rear axle of the hauled motor vehicle to the closest bumper

1    thereof;

2           (h) The overhang of a combine to be engaged in harvesting, while  
3    being transported into or through the state driven during daylight hours  
4    by a truck-tractor semitrailer combination, but the length of the  
5    semitrailer, including overhang, shall not exceed sixty-three feet and  
6    the maximum semitrailer length shall not exceed fifty-three feet;

7           (i) Any self-propelled specialized mobile equipment with a fixed  
8    load when the requirements of subdivision (2)(i) of section 60-6,288 are  
9    met; ~~or~~

10          (j) One truck-tractor two trailer combination or one truck-tractor  
11    semitrailer trailer combination used in transporting equipment utilized  
12    by custom harvesters under contract to agricultural producers to harvest  
13    wheat, soybeans, or milo during the months of April through November but  
14    the length of the property-carrying units, excluding load, shall not  
15    exceed eighty-one feet six inches; or -

16          (k) An overweight raw-milk vehicle for which a length exception has  
17    been granted under section 4 of this act.

18          (3) The length limitations of this section shall be exclusive of  
19    safety and energy conservation devices such as rearview mirrors,  
20    turnsignal lights, marker lights, steps and handholds for entry and  
21    egress, flexible fender extensions, mudflaps and splash and spray  
22    suppressant devices, load-induced tire bulge, refrigeration units or air  
23    compressors, and other devices necessary for safe and efficient operation  
24    of commercial motor vehicles, except that no device excluded from the  
25    limitations of this section shall have by its design or use the  
26    capability to carry cargo.

27          **Sec. 3.** Section 60-6,298, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
28    amended to read:

29          60-6,298 (1)(a) The Department of Transportation or the Nebraska  
30    State Patrol, with respect to highways under its jurisdiction including  
31    the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, and local

1 authorities, with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, may in  
2 their discretion upon application and good cause being shown therefor  
3 issue a special, continuing, or continuous permit in writing authorizing  
4 the applicant or his or her designee:

5 (i) To operate or move a vehicle, a combination of vehicles, or  
6 objects of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum  
7 specified by law when such permit is necessary:

8 (A) To further the national defense or the general welfare;

9 (B) To permit movement of cost-saving equipment to be used in  
10 highway or other public construction or in agricultural land treatment;  
11 or

12 (C) Because of an emergency, an unusual circumstance, or a very  
13 special situation;

14 (ii) To operate vehicles, for a distance up to one hundred twenty  
15 miles, loaded up to fifteen percent greater than the maximum weight  
16 specified by law, or up to ten percent greater than the maximum length  
17 specified by law, or both, except that any combination with two or more  
18 cargo-carrying units, not including the truck-tractor, also known as a  
19 longer combination vehicle, may only operate for a distance up to seventy  
20 miles loaded up to fifteen percent greater than the maximum weight  
21 specified by law, or up to ten percent greater than the maximum length  
22 specified by law, or both, when carrying grain or other seasonally  
23 harvested products from the field where such grain or products are  
24 harvested to storage, market, or stockpile in the field or from stockpile  
25 or farm storage to market or factory when failure to move such grain or  
26 products in abundant quantities would cause an economic loss to the  
27 person or persons whose grain or products are being transported or when  
28 failure to move such grain or products in as large quantities as possible  
29 would not be in the best interests of the national defense or general  
30 welfare. The distance limitation may be waived for vehicles when carrying  
31 dry beans or dry peas and lentils from the field where harvested to

1 storage or market when dry beans or dry peas and lentils are not normally  
2 stored, purchased, or used within the permittee's local area and must be  
3 transported more than one hundred twenty miles to an available marketing  
4 or storage destination. No permit shall authorize a weight greater than  
5 twenty thousand pounds on any single axle;

6 (iii) To transport an implement of husbandry which does not exceed  
7 twelve and one-half feet in width during daylight hours, except that the  
8 permit shall not allow transport on holidays;

9 (iv) To operate one or more recreational vehicles, as defined in  
10 section 71-4603, exceeding the maximum width specified by law if movement  
11 of the recreational vehicles is prior to retail sale and the recreational  
12 vehicles comply with subdivision (2)(k) of section 60-6,288;

13 (v) To operate an emergency vehicle for purposes of sale,  
14 demonstration, exhibit, or delivery, if the applicant or his or her  
15 designee is a manufacturer or sales agent of the emergency vehicle. No  
16 permit shall be issued for an emergency vehicle which weighs over sixty  
17 thousand pounds on the tandem axle; ~~or~~

18 (vi) To transport during daylight hours divisible loads of livestock  
19 forage in bale form which do not exceed twelve feet in width, except that  
20 the permit shall not allow transport on holidays; or -

21 (vii) To operate overweight raw-milk vehicles carrying raw milk from  
22 a dairy farm to a processing facility for such raw milk in accordance  
23 with section 4 of this act.

24 (b) No permit shall be issued under subdivision (a)(i) of this  
25 subsection for a vehicle carrying a load unless such vehicle is loaded  
26 with an object which exceeds the size or weight limitations, which cannot  
27 be dismantled or reduced in size or weight without great difficulty, and  
28 which of necessity must be moved over the highways to reach its intended  
29 destination. No permit shall be required for the temporary movement on  
30 highways other than dustless-surfaced state highways and for necessary  
31 access to points on such highways during daylight hours of cost-saving

1 equipment to be used in highway or other public construction or in  
2 agricultural land treatment when such temporary movement is necessary and  
3 for a reasonable distance.

4 (2) The application for any such permit shall specifically describe  
5 the vehicle, the load to be operated or moved, whenever possible the  
6 particular highways for which permit to operate is requested, and whether  
7 such permit is requested for a single trip or for continuous or  
8 continuing operation. The permit shall include a signed affirmation under  
9 oath that, for any load sixteen feet high or higher, the applicant has  
10 contacted any and all electric utilities that have high voltage  
11 conductors and infrastructure that cross over the roadway affected by the  
12 move and made arrangements with such electric utilities for the safe  
13 movement of the load under any high voltage conductors owned by such  
14 electric utilities.

15 (3) The department or local authority is authorized to issue or  
16 withhold such permit at its discretion or, if such permit is issued, to  
17 limit the number of days during which the permit is valid, to limit the  
18 number of trips, to establish seasonal or other time limitations within  
19 which the vehicles described may be operated on the highways indicated,  
20 or to issue a continuous or continuing permit for use on all highways,  
21 including the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. The  
22 permits are subject to reasonable conditions as to periodic renewal of  
23 such permit and as to operation or movement of such vehicles. The  
24 department or local authority may otherwise limit or prescribe conditions  
25 of operation of such vehicle or vehicles, when necessary to assure  
26 against undue damage to the road foundations, surfaces, or structures or  
27 undue danger to the public safety. The department or local authority may  
28 require such undertaking or other security as may be deemed necessary to  
29 compensate for any injury to any roadway or road structure.

30 (4) Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle to which it  
31 refers and shall be open to inspection by any peace officer, carrier

1 enforcement officer, or authorized agent of any authority granting such  
2 permit. Each such permit shall state the maximum weight permissible on a  
3 single axle or combination of axles and the total gross weight allowed.  
4 No person shall violate any of the terms or conditions of such special  
5 permit. In case of any violation, the permit shall be deemed  
6 automatically revoked and the penalty of the original limitations shall  
7 be applied unless:

8 (a) The violation consists solely of exceeding the size or weight  
9 specified by the permit, in which case only the penalty of the original  
10 size or weight limitation exceeded shall be applied; ~~or~~

11 (b) The total gross load is within the maximum authorized by the  
12 permit, no axle is more than ten percent in excess of the maximum load  
13 for such axle or group of axles authorized by the permit, and such load  
14 can be shifted to meet the weight limitations of wheel and axle loads  
15 authorized by such permit. Such shift may be made without penalty if it  
16 is made at the state or commercial scale designated in the permit. The  
17 vehicle may travel from its point of origin to such designated scale  
18 without penalty, and a scale ticket from such scale, showing the vehicle  
19 to be properly loaded and within the gross and axle weights authorized by  
20 the permit, shall be reasonable evidence of compliance with the terms of  
21 the permit; or -

22 (c) Such permit is an overweight raw-milk vehicle permit and the  
23 overweight raw-milk vehicle violated subsection (3) of section 4 of this  
24 act.

25 (5) The department or local authority issuing a permit as provided  
26 in this section may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations with  
27 respect to the issuance of permits provided for in this section.

28 (6) The department shall make available applications for permits  
29 authorized pursuant to subdivisions (1)(a)(ii) and (1)(a)(iii) of this  
30 section in the office of each county treasurer. The department may make  
31 available applications for all other permits authorized by this section



1 to the office of the county treasurer and may make available applications  
2 for all permits authorized by this section to any other location chosen  
3 by the department.

4 (7) The department or local authority issuing a permit may require a  
5 permit fee of not to exceed twenty-five dollars, except that:

6 (a) The fee for a continuous or continuing permit may not exceed  
7 twenty-five dollars for a ninety-day period, fifty dollars for a one-  
8 hundred-eighty-day period, or one hundred dollars for a one-year period;  
9 and

10 (b) The fee for permits issued pursuant to subdivision (1)(a)(ii) of  
11 this section shall be twenty-five dollars. Permits issued pursuant to  
12 such subdivision shall be valid for thirty days and shall be renewable  
13 four times for a total number of days not to exceed one hundred fifty  
14 days per calendar year.

15 A vehicle or combination of vehicles for which an application for a  
16 permit is requested pursuant to this section shall be registered under  
17 section 60-3,147 or 60-3,198 for the maximum gross vehicle weight that is  
18 permitted pursuant to section 60-6,294 before a permit shall be issued.

19 **Sec. 4. (1) The Legislature finds that:**

20 (a) Raw milk needs to be promptly processed;

21 (b) Lawful truck weight requirements can lead to an inability to  
22 haul all available raw milk produced at a dairy farm, which results in  
23 some raw milk being wasted;

24 (c) There has been a reduction in the availability of raw milk  
25 processing facilities in this state; and

26 (d) The opportunity and need for a special, continuing, or  
27 continuous permit to operate vehicles carrying only raw milk from a dairy  
28 farm to a milk processing facility for such raw milk is needed due to  
29 provisions concerning the hauling of raw milk in the federal Fixing  
30 America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94.

31 (2) For purposes of this section:

1       (a) Bridge map means the map described in subsection (4) of this  
2 section;

3       (b) Department means the Department of Transportation;

4       (c) Overweight raw-milk vehicle means a vehicle that has been issued  
5 and currently holds an overweight raw-milk vehicle permit;

6       (d) Overweight raw-milk vehicle permit means a valid special,  
7 continuing, or continuous overweight raw-milk vehicle permit issued under  
8 section 60-6,298 to carry raw milk from a dairy farm to a processing  
9 facility for such raw milk; and

10       (e) Prohibited bridge structure means a bridge structure identified  
11 as prohibited on the bridge map.

12       (3) An overweight raw-milk vehicle shall:

13       (a) Not exceed a gross weight of one hundred seven thousand five  
14 hundred pounds;

15       (b) For each single axle and each group of axles on the truck-  
16 tractor and the hauling tanker trailer, not exceed the weight limits  
17 calculated using the federal bridge formula identified in 23 U.S.C. 127,  
18 as such section existed on January 1, 2025;

19       (c) Carry a physical or digital copy of the bridge map;

20       (d) Not enter any prohibited bridge structure; and

21       (e) Not travel on the National System of Interstate and Defense  
22 Highways, unless authorized by the department on the overweight raw-milk  
23 vehicle permit pursuant to written approval from the Federal Highway  
24 Administration for such authorization.

25       (4)(a) Prior to January 1, 2026, the department shall create a map  
26 of bridge structures in this state onto which an overweight raw-milk  
27 vehicle shall not enter.

28       (b) The department shall review the bridge map at least once each  
29 year and make any necessary updates to the bridge map.

30       (c) The department shall publish the most recent version of the  
31 bridge map on the public website provided by the department.

1       (5)(a) The department may revoke the overweight raw-milk vehicle  
2 permit for any overweight raw-milk vehicle that violates subsection (3)  
3 of this section.

4       (b) Any such revocation shall not become effective until the holder  
5 of any such revoked permit has been provided written notice by the  
6 department of such revocation. Any such notice provided by United States  
7 mail is not effective until received by the holder of the revoked permit.

8       (c) Any such revocation may be appealed by the holder of the revoked  
9 permit. The appeal shall be in accordance with the Administrative  
10 Procedure Act.

11       (6) If the department determines that overweight raw-milk vehicle  
12 permits put this state at risk of losing federal aid funding, the  
13 department shall revoke all such permits.

14       (7) For any overweight raw-milk vehicle that enters a prohibited  
15 bridge structure and is the proximate cause of damage to the prohibited  
16 bridge structure, the owner of the overweight raw-milk vehicle shall be  
17 liable for all costs associated with repairing such damage. The  
18 department may bring an action to recover such costs associated with  
19 repairing such damage in the district court of the county where the  
20 prohibited bridge structure is located or in the district court of  
21 Lancaster County. Any money recovered in such action shall be remitted to  
22 the State Treasurer for credit to the General Fund.

23       (8) The department may grant an exception to section 60-6,290  
24 regarding the length of a vehicle if such length is reasonable and is  
25 needed for an overweight raw-milk vehicle to comply with all weight  
26 limits for single axles and groups of axles.

27       **Sec. 5.** Original section 60-6,298, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
28 Nebraska, and sections 60-601 and 60-6,290, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
29 Supplement, 2024, are repealed.

30       **Sec. 6.** Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
31 passed and approved according to law.