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House Bill 6239 (Substitute H-1 as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Kate Ebli

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to permit a truck tractor to tow a log slasher and a saw unit if the length of the units did not exceed certain limits, and if the coupling devices of the truck tractor and unit met the requirements of the Motor Carrier Safety Act.

The Code contains length limits for specified vehicles and combinations of vehicles operating on a designated highway of the State.

The bill would permit the operation of a truck tractor with a log slasher unit and a log saw unit with no overall length limit if the length of each unit did not exceed 28½ feet, or if the overall length of the slasher unit and the saw unit, as measured from the front of the first towed unit to the rear of the second towed unit while the units were coupled together, did not exceed 58 feet. The coupling devices of the truck tractor and units would have to meet the requirements established under the Motor Carrier Safety Act.

The Code prohibits a truck tractor from pulling a combination of two semitrailers, unless each semitrailer uses a fifth wheel connecting assembly. The bill would make an exception to this for the combination described above.

MCL 257.719

Legislative Analyst: Curtis Walker

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have a minimal fiscal impact on State and local government. The bill essentially would eliminate a prohibition against towing certain logging equipment, within a certain length limit. The bill could result in fewer citations being issued under this section, although the number would likely be small. Civil fine revenue under the Michigan Vehicle Code benefits public libraries.

Date Completed: 12-3-08

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco