



828292

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Rules (Lee) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 123 and 124

insert:

Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 316.515, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (16) is added to that section, to read:

316.515 Maximum width, height, length.—

(3) LENGTH LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, length limitations apply solely to a semitrailer or trailer, and not to a truck tractor or to the overall length of



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12 a combination of vehicles. No combination of commercial motor  
13 vehicles coupled together and operating on the public roads may  
14 consist of more than one truck tractor and two trailing units.  
15 Unless otherwise specifically provided for in this section, a  
16 combination of vehicles not qualifying as commercial motor  
17 vehicles may consist of no more than two units coupled together;  
18 such nonqualifying combination of vehicles may not exceed a  
19 total length of 65 feet, inclusive of the load carried thereon,  
20 but exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices approved  
21 by the department for use on vehicles using public roads.  
22 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a truck  
23 tractor-semitrailer combination engaged in the transportation of  
24 automobiles or boats may transport motor vehicles or boats on  
25 part of the power unit; and, except as may otherwise be mandated  
26 under federal law, an automobile or boat transporter semitrailer  
27 may not exceed 50 feet in length, exclusive of the load;  
28 however, the load may extend up to an additional 6 feet beyond  
29 the rear of the trailer. The 50-foot length limitation does not  
30 apply to non-stinger-steered automobile or boat transporters  
31 that are 65 feet or less in overall length, exclusive of the  
32 load carried thereon, ~~or to stinger-steered automobile or boat~~  
33 transporters that are 75 feet or less in overall length,  
34 exclusive of the load carried thereon, or to stinger-steered  
35 automobile transporters that are 80 feet or less in overall  
36 length, exclusive of the load carried thereon. For purposes of  
37 this subsection, a "stinger-steered automobile or boat  
38 transporter" is an automobile or boat transporter configured as  
39 a semitrailer combination wherein the fifth wheel is located on  
40 a drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the



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41 power unit. Automobile transporters operating under this  
42 subsection may backhaul cargo or general freight if the weight  
43 of such cargo or freight does not exceed the limits imposed  
44 under s. 316.535. Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), any  
45 straight truck or truck tractor-semitrailer combination engaged  
46 in the transportation of horticultural trees may allow the load  
47 to extend up to an additional 10 feet beyond the rear of the  
48 vehicle, provided the ~~said~~ trees are resting against a retaining  
49 bar mounted above the truck bed so that the root balls of the  
50 trees rest on the floor and to the front of the truck bed and  
51 the tops of the trees extend up over and to the rear of the  
52 truck bed, and provided the overhanging portion of the load is  
53 covered with protective fabric.

54 (a) *Straight trucks.*—A straight truck may not exceed a  
55 length of 40 feet in extreme overall dimension, exclusive of  
56 safety and energy conservation devices approved by the  
57 department for use on vehicles using public roads. A straight  
58 truck may attach a forklift to the rear of the cargo bed,  
59 provided the overall combined length of the vehicle and the  
60 forklift does not exceed 50 feet. Except as otherwise provided  
61 in this section, a straight truck may tow no more than one  
62 trailer, and the overall length of the truck-trailer combination  
63 may not exceed 68 feet, including the load thereon.  
64 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a truck-  
65 trailer combination engaged in the transportation of boats, or  
66 boat trailers whose design dictates a front-to-rear stacking  
67 method may not exceed the length limitations of this paragraph  
68 exclusive of the load; however, the load may extend up to an  
69 additional 6 feet beyond the rear of the trailer.



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70 (b) *Semitrailers.*—

71 1. A semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer  
72 combination may not exceed 48 feet in extreme overall outside  
73 dimension, measured from the front of the unit to the rear of  
74 the unit and the load carried thereon, exclusive of safety and  
75 energy conservation devices approved by the department for use  
76 on vehicles using public roads, unless it complies with  
77 subparagraph 2. A semitrailer which exceeds 48 feet in length  
78 and is used to transport divisible loads may operate in this  
79 state only if issued a permit under s. 316.550 and if such  
80 trailer meets the requirements of this chapter relating to  
81 vehicle equipment and safety. Except for highways on the tandem  
82 trailer truck highway network, public roads deemed unsafe for  
83 longer semitrailer vehicles or those roads on which such longer  
84 vehicles are determined not to be in the interest of public  
85 convenience shall, in conformance with s. 316.006, be restricted  
86 by the Department of Transportation or by the local authority to  
87 use by semitrailers not exceeding a length of 48 feet, inclusive  
88 of the load carried thereon but exclusive of safety and energy  
89 conservation devices approved by the department for use on  
90 vehicles using public roads. Truck tractor-semitrailer  
91 combinations shall be afforded reasonable access to terminals;  
92 facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; and points of  
93 loading and unloading.

94 2. A semitrailer which is more than 48 feet but not more  
95 than 57 feet in extreme overall outside dimension, as measured  
96 pursuant to subparagraph 1., may operate on public roads, except  
97 roads on the State Highway System which are restricted by the  
98 Department of Transportation or other roads restricted by local



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99 authorities, if:

100 a. The distance between the kingpin or other peg that locks  
101 into the fifth wheel of a truck tractor and the center of the  
102 rear axle or rear group of axles does not exceed 41 feet, or, in  
103 the case of a semitrailer used exclusively or primarily to  
104 transport vehicles in connection with motorsports competition  
105 events, the distance does not exceed 46 feet from the kingpin to  
106 the center of the rear axles; and

107 b. It is equipped with a substantial rear-end underride  
108 protection device meeting the requirements of 49 C.F.R. s.  
109 393.86, "Rear End Protection."

110 (c) *Tandem trailer trucks.*—

111 1. Except for semitrailers and trailers of up to 28 1/2  
112 feet in length which existed on December 1, 1982, and which were  
113 actually and lawfully operating on that date, no semitrailer or  
114 trailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer  
115 combination may exceed a length of 28 feet in extreme overall  
116 outside dimension, measured from the front of the unit to the  
117 rear of the unit and the load carried thereon, exclusive of  
118 safety and energy conservation devices approved by the  
119 Department of Transportation for use on vehicles using public  
120 roads.

121 2. Tandem trailer trucks conforming to the weight and size  
122 limitations of this chapter and in immediate transit to or from  
123 a terminal facility as defined in this chapter may operate on  
124 the public roads of this state except for residential  
125 neighborhood streets restricted by the Department of  
126 Transportation or local jurisdictions. In addition, the  
127 Department of Transportation or local jurisdictions may restrict



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128 these vehicles from using streets and roads under their  
129 maintenance responsibility on the basis of safety and  
130 engineering analyses, provided that the restrictions are  
131 consistent with ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter. The Department  
132 of Transportation shall develop safety and engineering standards  
133 to be used by all jurisdictions when identifying public roads  
134 and streets to be restricted from tandem trailer truck  
135 operations.

136 3. Except as otherwise provided in this section, within 5  
137 miles of the Federal National Network for large trucks, tandem  
138 trailer trucks shall be afforded access to terminals; facilities  
139 for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; and points of loading and  
140 unloading.

141 4. Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ any general or special  
142 law to the contrary, all local system tandem trailer truck route  
143 review procedures must be consistent with those adopted by the  
144 Department of Transportation.

145 5. Tandem trailer trucks employed as household goods  
146 carriers and conforming to the weight and size limitations of  
147 this chapter shall be afforded access to points of loading and  
148 unloading on the public streets and roads of this state, except  
149 for streets and roads that have been restricted from use by such  
150 vehicles on the basis of safety and engineering analyses by the  
151 jurisdiction responsible for maintenance of the streets and  
152 roads.

153 (d) *Maxi-cube vehicles.*—Maxi-cube vehicles shall be allowed  
154 to operate on routes open to tandem trailer trucks under the  
155 same conditions applicable to tandem trailer trucks as specified  
156 by this section.



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157 (4) LOAD EXTENSION LIMITATION.—The load upon any vehicle  
158 operated alone, or the load upon the front vehicle of a  
159 combination of vehicles, may not extend more than 3 feet beyond  
160 the front wheels of the vehicle or the front bumper of the  
161 vehicle if it is equipped with a bumper. However, the load upon  
162 any stinger-steered automobile transporter may not extend more  
163 than 4 feet beyond the front bumper of the vehicle.

164 (a) The limitations of this subsection do not apply to  
165 bicycle racks carrying bicycles on public sector transit  
166 vehicles.

167 (b) ~~The provisions of~~ This subsection does ~~shall~~ not apply  
168 to a front-end loading collection vehicle, when:

169 1. The front-end loading mechanism and container or  
170 containers are in the lowered position;

171 2. The vehicle is engaged in collecting solid waste or  
172 recyclable or recovered materials;

173 3. The vehicle is being operated at speeds less than 20  
174 miles per hour with the vehicular hazard-warning lights  
175 activated; and

176 4. The extension does not exceed 8 feet 6 inches.

177 (16) TOWAWAY TRAILER TRANSPORTER COMBINATIONS.—An unladen  
178 power unit may tow two trailers or semitrailers when the  
179 combination is not used to carry property, the overall  
180 combination length does not exceed 82 feet, and the total gross  
181 weight of the combination does not exceed 26,000 pounds. The  
182 trailers or semitrailers must constitute inventory property of a  
183 manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers or  
184 semitrailers.

185 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section



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186 316.545, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

187 316.545 Weight and load unlawful; special fuel and motor  
188 fuel tax enforcement; inspection; penalty; review.—

189 (3)

190 (c)1. For a vehicle fueled by natural gas or electric  
191 batteries, the fine is calculated by reducing the actual gross  
192 vehicle weight by the certified weight difference between the  
193 natural gas tank or electric battery system and fueling system  
194 and a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. Upon request by  
195 any weight inspector or law enforcement officer, the vehicle  
196 operator must present written certification that identifies the  
197 weight of the natural gas tank or electric battery system and  
198 fueling system and the difference in weight of a comparable  
199 diesel tank and fueling system. The written certification must  
200 originate from the vehicle manufacturer or the installer of the  
201 natural gas tank or electric battery system and fueling system.

202 2. The actual gross vehicle weight for vehicles fueled by  
203 natural gas or electric batteries may not exceed 82,000 pounds,  
204 excluding the weight allowed for idle-reduction technology under  
205 paragraph (b).

206 3. This paragraph does not apply to those vehicles  
207 described in s. 316.535(6).

208  
209 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

210 And the title is amended as follows:

211 Between lines 21 and 22

212 insert:

213 amending s. 316.515, F.S.; revising length and load  
214 extension limitations for stinger-steered automobile





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215        transporters; authorizing automobile transporters to  
216        backhaul certain cargo or freight under certain  
217        circumstances; authorizing an unladen power unit to  
218        tow a certain combination of trailers or semitrailers  
219        under certain circumstances; amending s. 316.545,  
220        F.S.; providing for the calculation of specified fines  
221        for vehicles fueled by electric batteries;