

CHAPTER 518—H.F.No. 1469

An act relating to traffic regulations; providing for restrictions on vehicles transporting firewood on trunk highways; amending Minnesota Statutes 1986, sections 169.80, subdivision 1; and 169.81, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 169.80, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **LIMITATIONS.** It is a misdemeanor for a person to drive or move, or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved, on a highway a vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations stated in sections 169.80 to 169.88, or otherwise in violation of sections 169.80 to 169.88, other than section 2, and the maximum size and weight of vehicles as prescribed in sections 169.80 to 169.88 shall be lawful throughout this state, and local authorities shall have no power or authority to alter these limitations except as express authority may be granted in sections 169.80 to 169.88.

When all the axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles are weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles so weighed.

When each of the axles of any group that contains two or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles have been weighed separately the sum of the weights of the axles so weighed shall be evidence of the total gross weight on the group of axles so weighed.

When, in any group of three or more consecutive axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles any axles have been weighed separately and two or more axles consecutive to each other in the group have been weighed together, the sum of the weights of the axles weighed separately and the axles weighed together shall be evidence of the total gross weight of the group of axles so weighed.

The provisions of sections 169.80 to 169.88 governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to fire apparatus, or to implements of husbandry temporarily moved upon a highway, or to loads of loose hay or corn stalks if transported by a horse-drawn vehicle or drawn by a farm tractor, or to a vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued as provided by law. For purposes of sections 169.80 to 169.88, a specialized vehicle resembling a low-slung two-wheel trailer having a short bed or platform shall be deemed to be an implement of husbandry when the vehicle is used exclusively to transport implements of husbandry; and the term "temporarily moved upon a highway" shall mean a movement not to exceed 50 miles.

In addition to any other special permits authorized, an annual permit may be issued authorizing movements on interstate highways and movements exceed-

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ing 50 miles on noninterstate highways of oversize vehicles and loads when the vehicles or combination of vehicles are used exclusively to transport implements of husbandry. Annual permits are issued in accordance with the applicable provisions of section 169.86, except that the transporting vehicle or combination of vehicles may be moved at the discretion of the permittee without prior route approval from the permit issuing office of the department of transportation if:

(a) The overall width of the transporting vehicle, including load, does not exceed 14 feet;

(b) The transporting vehicle otherwise complies with equipment requirements and length, height and weight limitations prescribed by this chapter;

(c) The movement is made after the hour of sunrise and not later than 30 minutes after sunset;

(d) The movement is not made when visibility is impaired by weather, fog or other conditions rendering persons and vehicles not clearly visible at a distance of 500 feet, or on Sundays after 12 o'clock noon, and holidays;

(e) The transporting vehicle shall display at the front and rear end of the load or vehicle a pair of flashing amber lights, as provided in section 169.59, subdivision 4, whenever the overall width of the vehicle exceeds ten feet, six inches; and

(f) The movement, if made on a trunk highway, is made on a trunk highway with a surfaced roadway width of not less than 24 feet.

The fee for an annual permit is \$24.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 169.81, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5a. FIREWOOD LOADS. No vehicle that has a cargo area without a rear wall may be driven or moved on a trunk highway with a load of cut firewood of less than three feet in length unless the rear of the cargo area is covered with a material of sufficient strength to prevent any part of the load from escaping from the rear. No person shall transport firewood in any vehicle in an unsafe manner. Violation of this subdivision is a petty misdemeanor except that a peace officer may issue a citation that amounts to a warning (1) for a first offense, and (2) if, in the judgment of the citing peace officer at the site, the load of firewood is made safe for transport.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 1 is effective August 1, 1988, and applies to violations occurring on or after that date.

Approved April 14, 1988

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