

# HB5540



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB5540

by Rep. Jerry Lee Long

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/15-107

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-107

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Repeals provisions providing that the distance between the kingpin and the center axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed 42 feet 6 inches and that such a limit shall not apply to trailers or semitrailers used for the transport of livestock.

LRB100 18065 LNS 33256 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 15-107 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/15-107) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-107)

7 Sec. 15-107. Length of vehicles.

8 (a) The maximum length of a single vehicle on any highway  
9 of this State may not exceed 42 feet except the following:

10 (1) Semitrailers.

11 (2) Charter or regulated route buses may be up to 45  
12 feet in length, not including energy absorbing bumpers.

13 (a-1) A motor home as defined in Section 1-145.01 may be up  
14 to 45 feet in length, not including energy absorbing bumpers.  
15 The length limitations described in this subsection (a-1) shall  
16 be exclusive of energy-absorbing bumpers and rear view mirrors.

17 (b) On all non-State highways, the maximum length of  
18 vehicles in combinations is as follows:

19 (1) A truck tractor in combination with a semitrailer  
20 may not exceed 65 feet overall dimension. An agency or  
21 instrumentality of the State of Illinois or any unit of  
22 local government shall not be required to widen or  
23 otherwise alter a non-State highway constructed before the

1 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 100th General  
2 Assembly to accommodate truck tractors under this  
3 paragraph (1).

4 (2) A truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or truck  
5 tractor semitrailer-semitrailer may not exceed 60 feet  
6 overall dimension.

7 (3) Combinations specially designed to transport motor  
8 vehicles or boats may not exceed 60 feet overall dimension.

9 (4) (Blank). ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
10 ~~center axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in~~  
11 ~~combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed 42 feet 6~~  
12 ~~inches. The limit contained in this paragraph (4) shall not~~  
13 ~~apply to trailers or semitrailers used for the transport of~~  
14 ~~livestock as defined by Section 18b-101.~~

15 Vehicles operating during daylight hours when transporting  
16 poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
17 nature that cannot readily be dismembered are exempt from  
18 length limitations, provided that no object may exceed 80 feet  
19 in length and the overall dimension of the vehicle including  
20 the load may not exceed 100 feet. This exemption does not apply  
21 to operation on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal  
22 holidays referred to in this Section are the days on which the  
23 following traditional holidays are celebrated: New Year's Day;  
24 Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day;  
25 and Christmas Day.

26 Vehicles and loads operated by a public utility while en

1 route to make emergency repairs to public service facilities or  
2 properties are exempt from length limitations, provided that  
3 during night operations every vehicle and its load must be  
4 equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both  
5 sides and marker lamps on the extreme ends of any projecting  
6 load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load.

7 A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle or  
8 combination of disabled vehicles, as provided in paragraph (6)  
9 of subsection (c) of this Section, is exempt from length  
10 limitations.

11 All other combinations not listed in this subsection (b)  
12 may not exceed 60 feet overall dimension.

13 (c) Except as provided in subsections (c-1) and (c-2),  
14 combinations of vehicles may not exceed a total of 2 vehicles  
15 except the following:

16 (1) A truck tractor semitrailer may draw one trailer.

17 (2) A truck tractor semitrailer may draw one converter  
18 dolly or one semitrailer.

19 (3) A truck tractor semitrailer may draw one vehicle  
20 that is defined in Chapter 1 as special mobile equipment,  
21 provided the overall dimension does not exceed 60 feet.

22 (4) A truck in transit may draw 3 trucks in transit  
23 coupled together by the triple saddlemount method.

24 (5) Recreational vehicles consisting of 3 vehicles,  
25 provided the following:

26 (A) The total overall dimension does not exceed 60

1 feet.

2 (B) The towing vehicle is a properly registered  
3 vehicle capable of towing another vehicle using a  
4 fifth-wheel type assembly.

5 (C) The second vehicle in the combination of  
6 vehicles is a recreational vehicle that is towed by a  
7 fifth-wheel assembly. This vehicle must be properly  
8 registered and must be equipped with brakes,  
9 regardless of weight.

10 (D) The third vehicle must be the lightest of the 3  
11 vehicles and be a trailer or semitrailer designed or  
12 used for transporting a boat, all-terrain vehicle,  
13 personal watercraft, or motorcycle.

14 (E) The towed vehicles may be only for the use of  
15 the operator of the towing vehicle.

16 (F) All vehicles must be properly equipped with  
17 operating brakes and safety equipment required by this  
18 Code, except the additional brake requirement in  
19 subdivision (C) of this subparagraph (5).

20 (6) A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle  
21 or combination of disabled vehicles, provided the towing  
22 vehicle:

23 (A) Is specifically designed as a tow truck having  
24 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000 pounds  
25 and equipped with air brakes, provided that air brakes  
26 are required only if the towing vehicle is towing a

1 vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer combination  
2 that is equipped with air brakes. For the purpose of  
3 this subsection, gross vehicle weight rating, or GVWR,  
4 means the value specified by the manufacturer as the  
5 loaded weight of the tow truck.

6 (B) Is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
7 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
8 in all directions.

9 (C) Is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
10 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
11 of vehicles.

12 (D) Does not engage a tow exceeding 50 highway  
13 miles from the initial point of wreck or disablement to  
14 a place of repair. Any additional movement of the  
15 vehicles may occur only upon issuance of authorization  
16 for that movement under the provisions of Sections  
17 15-301 through 15-319 of this Code.

18 The Department may by rule or regulation prescribe  
19 additional requirements regarding length limitations for a  
20 tow truck towing another vehicle.

21 For purposes of this Section, a tow-dolly that merely  
22 serves as substitute wheels for another legally licensed  
23 vehicle is considered part of the licensed vehicle and not  
24 a separate vehicle.

25 (7) Commercial vehicles consisting of 3 vehicles,  
26 provided the following:

1 (A) The total overall dimension does not exceed 65  
2 feet.

3 (B) The towing vehicle is a properly registered  
4 vehicle capable of towing another vehicle using a  
5 fifth-wheel type assembly or a goose-neck hitch ball.

6 (C) The third vehicle must be the lightest of the 3  
7 vehicles and be a trailer or semitrailer.

8 (D) All vehicles must be properly equipped with  
9 operating brakes and safety equipment required by this  
10 Code.

11 (E) The combination of vehicles must be operated by  
12 a person who holds a commercial driver's license (CDL).

13 (F) The combination of vehicles must be en route to  
14 a location where new or used trailers are sold by an  
15 Illinois or out-of-state licensed new or used trailer  
16 dealer.

17 (c-1) A combination of 3 vehicles is allowed access to any  
18 State designated highway if:

19 (1) the length of neither towed vehicle exceeds 28.5  
20 feet;

21 (2) the overall wheel base of the combination of  
22 vehicles does not exceed 62 feet; and

23 (3) the combination of vehicles is en route to a  
24 location where new or used trailers are sold by an Illinois  
25 or out-of-state licensed new or used trailer dealer.

26 (c-2) A combination of 3 vehicles is allowed access from

1 any State designated highway onto any county, township, or  
2 municipal highway for a distance of 5 highway miles for the  
3 purpose of delivery or collection of one or both of the towed  
4 vehicles if:

5 (1) the length of neither towed vehicle exceeds 28.5  
6 feet;

7 (2) the combination of vehicles does not exceed 40,000  
8 pounds in gross weight and 8 feet 6 inches in width;

9 (3) there is no sign prohibiting that access;

10 (4) the route is not being used as a thoroughfare  
11 between State designated highways; and

12 (5) the combination of vehicles is en route to a  
13 location where new or used trailers are sold by an Illinois  
14 or out-of-state licensed new or used trailer dealer.

15 (d) On Class I highways there are no overall length  
16 limitations on motor vehicles operating in combinations  
17 provided:

18 (1) The length of a semitrailer, unladen or with load,  
19 in combination with a truck tractor may not exceed 53 feet.

20 (2) (Blank). ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
21 ~~center of the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48~~  
22 ~~feet, in combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed~~  
23 ~~45 feet 6 inches. The limit contained in this paragraph (2)~~  
24 ~~shall not apply to trailers or semi-trailers used for the~~  
25 ~~transport of livestock as defined by Section 18b-101.~~

26 (3) The length of a semitrailer or trailer, unladen or



1 with load, operated in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer  
2 or truck tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination, may  
3 not exceed 28 feet 6 inches.

4 (4) Maxi-cube combinations, as defined in Chapter 1,  
5 may not exceed 65 feet overall dimension.

6 (5) Combinations of vehicles specifically designed to  
7 transport motor vehicles or boats may not exceed 65 feet  
8 overall dimension. The length limitation is inclusive of  
9 front and rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the  
10 transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of this  
11 Section.

12 (6) Stinger-steered semitrailer vehicles specifically  
13 designed to transport motor vehicles or boats and  
14 automobile transporters, as defined in Chapter 1, may not  
15 exceed 80 feet overall dimension. The length limitation is  
16 inclusive of front and rear bumpers but exclusive of the  
17 overhang of the transported vehicles, as provided in  
18 paragraph (i) of this Section.

19 (7) A truck in transit transporting 3 trucks coupled  
20 together by the triple saddlemount method may not exceed 97  
21 feet overall dimension.

22 (8) A towaway trailer transporter combination may not  
23 exceed 82 feet overall dimension.

24 Vehicles operating during daylight hours when transporting  
25 poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
26 nature that cannot readily be dismembered are exempt from

1 length limitations, provided that no object may exceed 80 feet  
2 in length and the overall dimension of the vehicle including  
3 the load may not exceed 100 feet. This exemption does not apply  
4 to operation on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal  
5 holidays referred to in this Section are the days on which the  
6 following traditional holidays are celebrated: New Year's Day;  
7 Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day;  
8 and Christmas Day.

9 Vehicles and loads operated by a public utility while en  
10 route to make emergency repairs to public service facilities or  
11 properties are exempt from length limitations, provided that  
12 during night operations every vehicle and its load must be  
13 equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both  
14 sides and marker lamps on the extreme ends of any projecting  
15 load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load.

16 A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle or  
17 combination of disabled vehicles, as provided in paragraph (6)  
18 of subsection (c) of this Section, is exempt from length  
19 limitations.

20 The length limitations described in this paragraph (d)  
21 shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices,  
22 such as bumpers, refrigeration units or air compressors and  
23 other devices, that the Department may interpret as necessary  
24 for safe and efficient operation; except that no device  
25 excluded under this paragraph shall have by its design or use  
26 the capability to carry cargo.

1 Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act  
2 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the  
3 designation of highways under this paragraph (d).

4 (e) On Class II highways there are no overall length  
5 limitations on motor vehicles operating in combinations,  
6 provided:

7 (1) The length of a semitrailer, unladen or with load,  
8 in combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed 53 feet  
9 overall dimension.

10 (2) (Blank). ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
11 ~~center of the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48~~  
12 ~~feet, in combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed~~  
13 ~~45 feet 6 inches. The limit contained in this paragraph (2)~~  
14 ~~shall not apply to trailers or semi-trailers used for the~~  
15 ~~transport of livestock as defined by Section 18b-101.~~

16 (3) A truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or truck  
17 tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination may not exceed  
18 65 feet in dimension from front axle to rear axle.

19 (4) The length of a semitrailer or trailer, unladen or  
20 with load, operated in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer  
21 or truck tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination, may  
22 not exceed 28 feet 6 inches.

23 (5) Maxi-cube combinations, as defined in Chapter 1,  
24 may not exceed 65 feet overall dimension.

25 (6) A combination of vehicles, specifically designed  
26 to transport motor vehicles or boats, may not exceed 65

1 feet overall dimension. The length limitation is inclusive  
2 of front and rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of  
3 the transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of  
4 this Section.

5 (7) Stinger-steered semitrailer vehicles specifically  
6 designed to transport motor vehicles or boats may not  
7 exceed 80 feet overall dimension. The length limitation is  
8 inclusive of front and rear bumpers but exclusive of the  
9 overhang of the transported vehicles, as provided in  
10 paragraph (i) of this Section.

11 (8) A truck in transit transporting 3 trucks coupled  
12 together by the triple saddlemount method may not exceed 97  
13 feet overall dimension.

14 (9) A towaway trailer transporter combination may not  
15 exceed 82 feet overall dimension.

16 Vehicles operating during daylight hours when transporting  
17 poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
18 nature that cannot readily be dismembered are exempt from  
19 length limitations, provided that no object may exceed 80 feet  
20 in length and the overall dimension of the vehicle including  
21 the load may not exceed 100 feet. This exemption does not apply  
22 to operation on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal  
23 holidays referred to in this Section are the days on which the  
24 following traditional holidays are celebrated: New Year's Day;  
25 Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day;  
26 and Christmas Day.

1           Vehicles and loads operated by a public utility while en  
2 route to make emergency repairs to public service facilities or  
3 properties are exempt from length limitations, provided that  
4 during night operations every vehicle and its load must be  
5 equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both  
6 sides and marker lamps on the extreme ends of any projecting  
7 load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load.

8           A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle or  
9 combination of disabled vehicles, as provided in paragraph (6)  
10 of subsection (c) of this Section, is exempt from length  
11 limitations.

12           Local authorities, with respect to streets and highways  
13 under their jurisdiction, may also by ordinance or resolution  
14 allow length limitations of this subsection (e).

15           The length limitations described in this paragraph (e)  
16 shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices,  
17 such as bumpers, refrigeration units or air compressors and  
18 other devices, that the Department may interpret as necessary  
19 for safe and efficient operation; except that no device  
20 excluded under this paragraph shall have by its design or use  
21 the capability to carry cargo.

22           Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act  
23 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the  
24 designation of highways under this paragraph (e).

25           (e-1) Combinations of vehicles not exceeding 65 feet  
26 overall length are allowed access as follows:

1           (1) From any State designated highway onto any county,  
2           township, or municipal highway for a distance of 5 highway  
3           miles for the purpose of loading and unloading, provided:

4                   (A) The vehicle does not exceed 80,000 pounds in  
5                   gross weight and 8 feet 6 inches in width.

6                   (B) There is no sign prohibiting that access.

7                   (C) The route is not being used as a thoroughfare  
8                   between State designated highways.

9           (2) From any State designated highway onto any county  
10           or township highway for a distance of 5 highway miles or  
11           onto any municipal highway for a distance of one highway  
12           mile for the purpose of food, fuel, repairs, and rest,  
13           provided:

14                   (A) The vehicle does not exceed 80,000 pounds in  
15                   gross weight and 8 feet 6 inches in width.

16                   (B) There is no sign prohibiting that access.

17                   (C) The route is not being used as a thoroughfare  
18                   between State designated highways.

19           (e-2) Except as provided in subsection (e-3), combinations  
20           of vehicles over 65 feet in length, with no overall length  
21           limitation except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of  
22           this Section, are allowed access as follows:

23                   (1) From a Class I highway onto any street or highway  
24                   for a distance of one highway mile for the purpose of  
25                   loading, unloading, food, fuel, repairs, and rest,  
26                   provided there is no sign prohibiting that access.

1           (2) From a Class I or Class II highway onto any State  
2 highway or any locally designated highway for a distance of  
3 5 highway miles for the purpose of loading, unloading,  
4 food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

5           (e-3) Combinations of vehicles over 65 feet in length  
6 operated by household goods carriers or towaway trailer  
7 transporter combinations, with no overall length limitations  
8 except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this Section,  
9 have unlimited access to points of loading, unloading, or  
10 delivery to or from a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer.

11           (f) On Class III and other non-designated State highways,  
12 the length limitations for vehicles in combination are as  
13 follows:

14           (1) Truck tractor-semitrailer combinations must comply  
15 with a maximum 65 feet extreme overall dimension. An agency  
16 or instrumentality of the State of Illinois or any unit of  
17 local government shall not be required to widen or  
18 otherwise alter a Class III or other non-designated State  
19 highway constructed before the effective date of this  
20 amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly to accommodate  
21 truck tractor-semitrailer combinations under this  
22 paragraph (1).

23           (2) Semitrailers, unladen or with load, may not exceed  
24 53 feet overall dimension.

25           (3) No truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or truck  
26 tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination may exceed 60

1 feet extreme overall dimension.

2 (4) (Blank). ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
3 ~~center axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in~~  
4 ~~combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed 42 feet 6~~  
5 ~~inches. The limit contained in this paragraph (4) shall not~~  
6 ~~apply to trailers or semi trailers used for the transport~~  
7 ~~of livestock as defined by Section 18b 101.~~

8 (g) Length limitations in the preceding subsections of this  
9 Section 15-107 do not apply to the following:

10 (1) Vehicles operated in the daytime, except on  
11 Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays, when transporting  
12 poles, pipe, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
13 nature that cannot readily be dismembered, provided the  
14 overall length of vehicle and load may not exceed 100 feet  
15 and no object exceeding 80 feet in length may be  
16 transported unless a permit has been obtained as authorized  
17 in Section 15-301.

18 (2) Vehicles and loads operated by a public utility  
19 while en route to make emergency repairs to public service  
20 facilities or properties, but during night operation every  
21 vehicle and its load must be equipped with a sufficient  
22 number of clearance lamps on both sides and marker lamps  
23 upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly  
24 mark the dimensions of the load.

25 (3) A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle  
26 or combination of disabled vehicles, provided the towing



1 vehicle meets the following conditions:

2 (A) It is specifically designed as a tow truck  
3 having a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000  
4 pounds and equipped with air brakes, provided that air  
5 brakes are required only if the towing vehicle is  
6 towing a vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer  
7 combination that is equipped with air brakes.

8 (B) It is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
9 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
10 in all directions.

11 (C) It is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
12 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
13 of vehicles.

14 (D) It does not engage in a tow exceeding 50 miles  
15 from the initial point of wreck or disablement.

16 The Department may by rule or regulation prescribe  
17 additional requirements regarding length limitations for a tow  
18 truck towing another vehicle. The towing vehicle, however, may  
19 tow any disabled vehicle from the initial point of wreck or  
20 disablement to a point where repairs are actually to occur.  
21 This movement shall be valid only on State routes. The tower  
22 must abide by posted bridge weight limits.

23 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight  
24 rating, or GVWR, shall mean the value specified by the  
25 manufacturer as the loaded weight of the tow truck. Legal  
26 holidays referred to in this Section shall be specified as the

1 day on which the following traditional holidays are celebrated:

2 New Year's Day;

3 Memorial Day;

4 Independence Day;

5 Labor Day;

6 Thanksgiving Day; and

7 Christmas Day.

8 (h) The load upon any vehicle operated alone, or the load  
9 upon the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles, shall not  
10 extend more than 3 feet beyond the front wheels of the vehicle  
11 or the front bumper of the vehicle if it is equipped with a  
12 front bumper. The provisions of this subsection (h) shall not  
13 apply to any vehicle or combination of vehicles specifically  
14 designed for the collection and transportation of waste,  
15 garbage, or recyclable materials during the vehicle's  
16 operation in the course of collecting garbage, waste, or  
17 recyclable materials if the vehicle is traveling at a speed not  
18 in excess of 15 miles per hour during the vehicle's operation  
19 and in the course of collecting garbage, waste, or recyclable  
20 materials. However, in no instance shall the load extend more  
21 than 7 feet beyond the front wheels of the vehicle or the front  
22 bumper of the vehicle if it is equipped with a front bumper.

23 (i) The load upon the front vehicle of an automobile  
24 transporter or a stinger-steered vehicle specifically designed  
25 to transport motor vehicles shall not extend more than 4 feet  
26 beyond the foremost part of the transporting vehicle and the

1 load upon the rear transporting vehicle shall not extend more  
2 than 6 feet beyond the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle.  
3 This paragraph shall only be applicable upon highways  
4 designated in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this Section.

5 (j) Articulated vehicles comprised of 2 sections, neither  
6 of which exceeds a length of 42 feet, designed for the carrying  
7 of more than 10 persons, may be up to 60 feet in length, not  
8 including energy absorbing bumpers, provided that the vehicles  
9 are:

10 1. operated by or for any public body or motor carrier  
11 authorized by law to provide public transportation  
12 services; or

13 2. operated in local public transportation service by  
14 any other person and the municipality in which the service  
15 is to be provided approved the operation of the vehicle.

16 (j-1) (Blank).

17 (k) Any person who is convicted of violating this Section  
18 is subject to the penalty as provided in paragraph (b) of  
19 Section 15-113.

20 (l) (Blank).

21 (Source: P.A. 99-717, eff. 8-5-16; 100-201, eff. 8-18-17;  
22 100-343, eff. 1-1-18.)