

# HB4446



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

**HB4446**

Introduced 1/30/2012, by Rep. David Reis

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/15-107

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

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that the length limits for the distance between the kingpin and the center of the rear axle of semitrailers longer than 48 feet shall not apply to trailers used for the transport of livestock.

LRB097 15671 HEP 60813 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 55 feet overall dimension.

21 (2) A truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or truck  
22 tractor semitrailer-semitrailer may not exceed 60 feet  
23 overall dimension.

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

3           Vehicles operating during daylight hours when transporting  
4           poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
5           nature that cannot readily be dismembered are exempt from  
6           length limitations, provided that no object may exceed 80 feet  
7           in length and the overall dimension of the vehicle including  
8           the load may not exceed 100 feet. This exemption does not apply  
9           to operation on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal  
10          holidays referred to in this Section are the days on which the  
11          following traditional holidays are celebrated: New Year's Day;  
12          Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day;  
13          and Christmas Day.

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

21          A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle or  
22          combination of disabled vehicles, as provided in paragraph (6)  
23          of subsection (c) of this Section, is exempt from length  
24          limitations.

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

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

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

5 (2) A truck tractor semitrailer may draw one converter  
6 dolly or one semitrailer.

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

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

12 (5) Recreational vehicles consisting of 3 vehicles,  
13 provided the following:

14 (A) The total overall dimension does not exceed 60  
15 feet.

16 (B) The towing vehicle is a properly registered  
17 vehicle capable of towing another vehicle using a  
18 fifth-wheel type assembly.

19 (C) The second vehicle in the combination of  
20 vehicles is a recreational vehicle that is towed by a  
21 fifth-wheel assembly. This vehicle must be properly  
22 registered and must be equipped with brakes,  
23 regardless of weight.

24 (D) The third vehicle must be the lightest of the 3  
25 vehicles and be a trailer or semitrailer designed or  
26 used for transporting a boat, all-terrain vehicle,

1 personal watercraft, or motorcycle.

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

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

8 (6) A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle  
9 or combination of disabled vehicles, provided the towing  
10 vehicle:

11 (A) Is specifically designed as a tow truck having  
12 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000 pounds  
13 and equipped with air brakes, provided that air brakes  
14 are required only if the towing vehicle is towing a  
15 vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer combination  
16 that is equipped with air brakes. For the purpose of  
17 this subsection, gross vehicle weight rating, or GVWR,  
18 means the value specified by the manufacturer as the  
19 loaded weight of the tow truck.

20 (B) Is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
21 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
22 in all directions.

23 (C) Is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
24 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
25 of vehicles.

26 (D) Does not engage a tow exceeding 50 highway

1 miles from the initial point of wreck or disablement to  
2 a place of repair. Any additional movement of the  
3 vehicles may occur only upon issuance of authorization  
4 for that movement under the provisions of Sections  
5 15-301 through 15-319 of this Code.

6 The Department may by rule or regulation prescribe  
7 additional requirements regarding length limitations for a  
8 tow truck towing another vehicle.

9 For purposes of this Section, a tow-dolly that merely  
10 serves as substitute wheels for another legally licensed  
11 vehicle is considered part of the licensed vehicle and not  
12 a separate vehicle.

13 (7) Commercial vehicles consisting of 3 vehicles,  
14 provided the following:

15 (A) The total overall dimension does not exceed 65  
16 feet.

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

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

22 (D) All vehicles must be properly equipped with  
23 operating brakes and safety equipment required by this  
24 Code.

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

1           (F) The combination of vehicles must be en route to  
2           a location where new or used trailers are sold by an  
3           Illinois or out-of-state licensed new or used trailer  
4           dealer.

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

7           (1) the length of neither towed vehicle exceeds 28.5  
8           feet;

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

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

14          (c-2) A combination of 3 vehicles is allowed access from  
15          any State designated highway onto any county, township, or  
16          municipal highway for a distance of 5 highway miles for the  
17          purpose of delivery or collection of one or both of the towed  
18          vehicles if:

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

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

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

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

26          (5) the combination of vehicles is en route to a

1 location where new or used trailers are sold by an Illinois  
2 or out-of-state licensed new or used trailer dealer.

3 (d) On Class I highways there are no overall length  
4 limitations on motor vehicles operating in combinations  
5 provided:

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

8 (2) The distance between the kingpin and the center of  
9 the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in  
10 combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed 45 feet 6  
11 inches. The length limit contained in this paragraph (2)  
12 shall not apply to trailers used for the transport of  
13 livestock.

14 (3) The length of a semitrailer or trailer, unladen or  
15 with load, operated in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer  
16 or truck tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination, may  
17 not exceed 28 feet 6 inches.

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

20 (5) Combinations of vehicles specifically designed to  
21 transport motor vehicles or boats may not exceed 65 feet  
22 overall dimension. The length limitation is inclusive of  
23 front and rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the  
24 transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of this  
25 Section.

26 (6) Stinger steered semitrailer vehicles as defined in



1 Chapter 1, specifically designed to transport motor  
2 vehicles or boats, may not exceed 75 feet overall  
3 dimension. The length limitation is inclusive of front and  
4 rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the  
5 transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of this  
6 Section.

7 (7) A truck in transit transporting 3 trucks coupled  
8 together by the triple saddlemount method may not exceed 75  
9 feet overall dimension.

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

21 Vehicles and loads operated by a public utility while en  
22 route to make emergency repairs to public service facilities or  
23 properties are exempt from length limitations, provided that  
24 during night operations every vehicle and its load must be  
25 equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both  
26 sides and marker lamps on the extreme ends of any projecting

1 load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load.

2 A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle or  
3 combination of disabled vehicles, as provided in paragraph (6)  
4 of subsection (c) of this Section, is exempt from length  
5 limitations.

6 The length limitations described in this paragraph (d)  
7 shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices,  
8 such as bumpers, refrigeration units or air compressors and  
9 other devices, that the Department may interpret as necessary  
10 for safe and efficient operation; except that no device  
11 excluded under this paragraph shall have by its design or use  
12 the capability to carry cargo.

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

16 (e) On Class II highways there are no overall length  
17 limitations on motor vehicles operating in combinations,  
18 provided:

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

22 (2) The distance between the kingpin and the center of  
23 the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in  
24 combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed 45 feet 6  
25 inches. The length limit contained in this paragraph (2)  
26 shall not apply to trailers used for the transport of

1        livestock.

2            (3) A truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or truck  
3 tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination may not exceed  
4 65 feet in dimension from front axle to rear axle.

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

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

11           (6) A combination of vehicles, specifically designed  
12 to transport motor vehicles or boats, may not exceed 65  
13 feet overall dimension. The length limitation is inclusive  
14 of front and rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of  
15 the transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of  
16 this Section.

17           (7) Stinger steered semitrailer vehicles, as defined  
18 in Chapter 1, specifically designed to transport motor  
19 vehicles or boats, may not exceed 75 feet overall  
20 dimension. The length limitation is inclusive of front and  
21 rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the  
22 transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of this  
23 Section.

24           (8) A truck in transit transporting 3 trucks coupled  
25 together by the triple saddlemount method may not exceed 75  
26 feet overall dimension.

1           Vehicles operating during daylight hours when transporting  
2 poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
3 nature that cannot readily be dismembered are exempt from  
4 length limitations, provided that no object may exceed 80 feet  
5 in length and the overall dimension of the vehicle including  
6 the load may not exceed 100 feet. This exemption does not apply  
7 to operation on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal  
8 holidays referred to in this Section are the days on which the  
9 following traditional holidays are celebrated: New Year's Day;  
10 Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day;  
11 and Christmas Day.

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

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

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

26           The length limitations described in this paragraph (e)

1 shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices,  
2 such as bumpers, refrigeration units or air compressors and  
3 other devices, that the Department may interpret as necessary  
4 for safe and efficient operation; except that no device  
5 excluded under this paragraph shall have by its design or use  
6 the capability to carry cargo.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (2) From any State designated highway onto any county  
21 or township highway for a distance of 5 highway miles or  
22 onto any municipal highway for a distance of one highway  
23 mile for the purpose of food, fuel, repairs, and rest,  
24 provided:

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

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

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

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

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

12 (2) From a Class I or Class II highway onto any State  
13 highway or any locally designated highway for a distance of  
14 5 highway miles for the purpose of loading, unloading,  
15 food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

16 (e-3) Combinations of vehicles over 65 feet in length  
17 operated by household goods carriers, with no overall length  
18 limitations except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of  
19 this Section, have unlimited access to points of loading and  
20 unloading.

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

24 (1) Truck tractor-semitrailer combinations, must  
25 comply with either a maximum 55 feet overall wheel base or  
26 a maximum 65 feet extreme overall dimension.

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

3           (3) No truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or truck  
4           tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination may exceed 60  
5           feet extreme overall dimension.

6           (4) The distance between the kingpin and the center  
7           axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in combination  
8           with a truck tractor, may not exceed 42 feet 6 inches. The  
9           length limit contained in this paragraph (4) shall not  
10           apply to trailers used for the transport of livestock.

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

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

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

1 mark the dimensions of the load.

2 (3) A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle  
3 or combination of disabled vehicles, provided the towing  
4 vehicle meets the following conditions:

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

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

14 (C) It is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
15 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
16 of vehicles.

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

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

26 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight



1 rating, or GVWR, shall mean the value specified by the  
2 manufacturer as the loaded weight of the tow truck. Legal  
3 holidays referred to in this Section shall be specified as the  
4 day on which the following traditional holidays are celebrated:

5 New Year's Day;

6 Memorial Day;

7 Independence Day;

8 Labor Day;

9 Thanksgiving Day; and

10 Christmas Day.

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

26 (i) The load upon the front vehicle of a combination of

1 vehicles specifically designed to transport motor vehicles  
2 shall not extend more than 3 feet beyond the foremost part of  
3 the transporting vehicle and the load upon the rear  
4 transporting vehicle shall not extend more than 4 feet beyond  
5 the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle. This paragraph  
6 shall only be applicable upon highways designated in paragraphs  
7 (d) and (e) of this Section.

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

13 1. operated by or for any public body or motor carrier  
14 authorized by law to provide public transportation  
15 services; or

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

19 (j-1) (Blank).

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

23 (l) (Blank).

24 (Source: P.A. 96-34, eff. 1-1-10; 96-37, eff. 7-13-09; 96-1352,  
25 eff. 7-28-10; 97-200, eff. 7-27-11.)