

# SB2056



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

SB2056

Introduced 2/10/2011, by Sen. John M. Sullivan

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/15-107

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

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Removes length limits for the distance between the kingpin and the center of the rear axle of semitrailers longer than 48 feet.

LRB097 05274 HEP 45326 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 may not exceed  
22 60 feet overall dimension.

23 (3) Combinations specially designed to transport motor

1 vehicles or boats may not exceed 60 feet overall dimension.

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

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

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

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

26 (c) Except as provided in subsections (c-1) and (c-2),

1 combinations of vehicles may not exceed a total of 2 vehicles  
2 except the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (D) Does not engage a tow exceeding 50 highway  
26 miles from the initial point of wreck or disablement to

1 a place of repair. Any additional movement of the  
2 vehicles may occur only upon issuance of authorization  
3 for that movement under the provisions of Sections  
4 15-301 through 15-319 of this Code.

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

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

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

14 (A) The total overall dimension does not exceed 65  
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 or a goose-neck hitch ball.

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

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

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

26 (F) The combination of vehicles must be en route to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (5) the combination of vehicles is en route to a  
26 location where new or used trailers are sold by an Illinois

1 or out-of-state licensed new or used trailer dealer.

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

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

7 (2) (Blank). ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
8 ~~center of the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48~~  
9 ~~feet, in combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed~~  
10 ~~45 feet 6 inches.~~

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

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

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

22 (6) Stinger steered semitrailer vehicles as defined in  
23 Chapter 1, specifically designed to transport motor  
24 vehicles or boats, may not exceed 75 feet overall  
25 dimension. The length limitation is inclusive of front and  
26 rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the



1 transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of this  
2 Section.

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

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

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

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

1 limitations.

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

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

12 (e) On Class II highways there are no overall length  
13 limitations on motor vehicles operating in combinations,  
14 provided:

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

18 (2) (Blank). ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
19 ~~center of the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48~~  
20 ~~feet, in combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed~~  
21 ~~45 feet 6 inches.~~

22 (3) A truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination  
23 may not exceed 65 feet in dimension from front axle to rear  
24 axle.

25 (4) The length of a semitrailer or trailer, unladen or  
26 with load, operated in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer

1 combination, may not exceed 28 feet 6 inches.

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

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

10 (7) Stinger steered semitrailer vehicles, as defined  
11 in Chapter 1, specifically designed to transport motor  
12 vehicles or boats, may not exceed 75 feet overall  
13 dimension. The length limitation is inclusive of front and  
14 rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the  
15 transported vehicles, as provided in paragraph (i) of this  
16 Section.

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

20 Vehicles operating during daylight hours when transporting  
21 poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
22 nature that cannot readily be dismembered are exempt from  
23 length limitations, provided that no object may exceed 80 feet  
24 in length and the overall dimension of the vehicle including  
25 the load may not exceed 100 feet. This exemption does not apply  
26 to operation on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal

1 holidays referred to in this Section are the days on which the  
2 following traditional holidays are celebrated: New Year's Day;  
3 Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day;  
4 and Christmas Day.

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

12 A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle or  
13 combination of disabled vehicles, as provided in paragraph (6)  
14 of subsection (c) of this Section, is exempt from length  
15 limitations.

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

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

26 Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act

1 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the  
2 designation of highways under this paragraph (e).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5           (2) From a Class I or Class II highway onto any State  
6           highway or any locally designated highway for a distance of  
7           5 highway miles for the purpose of loading, unloading,  
8           food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

9           (e-3) Combinations of vehicles over 65 feet in length  
10          operated by household goods carriers, with no overall length  
11          limitations except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of  
12          this Section, have unlimited access to points of loading and  
13          unloading.

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

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

20               (2) Semitrailers, unladen or with load, may not exceed  
21               53 feet overall dimension.

22               (3) No truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination  
23               may exceed 60 feet extreme overall dimension.

24               (4) Blank. ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
25               ~~center axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in~~  
26               ~~combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed 42 feet 6~~

1       ~~inches.~~

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

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

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

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

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

1 combination that is equipped with air brakes.

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

5 (C) It is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
6 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
7 of vehicles.

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

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

17 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight  
18 rating, or GVWR, shall mean the value specified by the  
19 manufacturer as the loaded weight of the tow truck. Legal  
20 holidays referred to in this Section shall be specified as the  
21 day on which the following traditional holidays are celebrated:

22 New Year's Day;

23 Memorial Day;

24 Independence Day;

25 Labor Day;

26 Thanksgiving Day; and



1 Christmas Day.

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

17 (i) The load upon the front vehicle of a combination of  
18 vehicles specifically designed to transport motor vehicles  
19 shall not extend more than 3 feet beyond the foremost part of  
20 the transporting vehicle and the load upon the rear  
21 transporting vehicle shall not extend more than 4 feet beyond  
22 the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle. This paragraph  
23 shall only be applicable upon highways designated in paragraphs  
24 (d) and (e) of this Section.

25 (j) Articulated vehicles comprised of 2 sections, neither  
26 of which exceeds a length of 42 feet, designed for the carrying

1 of more than 10 persons, may be up to 60 feet in length, not  
2 including energy absorbing bumpers, provided that the vehicles  
3 are:

4 1. operated by or for any public body or motor carrier  
5 authorized by law to provide public transportation  
6 services; or

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

10 (j-1) (Blank).

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

14 (l) (Blank).

15 (Source: P.A. 96-34, eff. 1-1-10; 96-37, eff. 7-13-09; 96-1352,  
16 eff. 7-28-10.)