

# SB1450



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

SB1450

Introduced 2/18/2009, by Sen. Gary G. Dahl

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/15-102

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-102

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code to change the maximum width for a motor vehicle or its load on the highways of this State from 8 feet wide to 8 feet, 6 inches wide.

LRB096 07413 AJT 17499 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 15-102 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/15-102) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-102)

7 Sec. 15-102. Width of Vehicles.

8 (a) On Class III and non-designated State and local  
9 highways, the total outside width of any vehicle or load  
10 thereon shall not exceed 8 feet 6 inches.

11 (b) Except during those times when, due to insufficient  
12 light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and  
13 vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a  
14 distance of 1000 feet, the following vehicles may exceed the 8  
15 feet 6 inch limitation during the period from a half hour  
16 before sunrise to a half hour after sunset:

17 (1) Loads of hay, straw or other similar farm products  
18 provided that the load is not more than 12 feet wide.

19 (2) Implements of husbandry being transported on  
20 another vehicle and the transporting vehicle while loaded.

21 The following requirements apply to the transportation  
22 on another vehicle of an implement of husbandry wider than  
23 8 feet 6 inches on the National System of Interstate and

1 Defense Highways or other highways in the system of State  
2 highways:

3 (A) The driver of a vehicle transporting an  
4 implement of husbandry that exceeds 8 feet 6 inches in  
5 width shall obey all traffic laws and shall check the  
6 roadways prior to making a movement in order to ensure  
7 that adequate clearance is available for the movement.  
8 It is prima facie evidence that the driver of a vehicle  
9 transporting an implement of husbandry has failed to  
10 check the roadway prior to making a movement if the  
11 vehicle is involved in a collision with a bridge,  
12 overpass, fixed structure, or properly placed traffic  
13 control device or if the vehicle blocks traffic due to  
14 its inability to proceed because of a bridge, overpass,  
15 fixed structure, or properly placed traffic control  
16 device.

17 (B) Flags shall be displayed so as to wave freely  
18 at the extremities of overwidth objects and at the  
19 extreme ends of all protrusions, projections, and  
20 overhangs. All flags shall be clean, bright red flags  
21 with no advertising, wording, emblem, or insignia  
22 inscribed upon them and at least 18 inches square.

23 (C) "OVERSIZE LOAD" signs are mandatory on the  
24 front and rear of all vehicles with loads over 10 feet  
25 wide. These signs must have 12-inch high black letters  
26 with a 2-inch stroke on a yellow sign that is 7 feet

1 wide by 18 inches high.

2 (D) One civilian escort vehicle is required for a  
3 load that exceeds 14 feet 6 inches in width and 2  
4 civilian escort vehicles are required for a load that  
5 exceeds 16 feet in width on the National System of  
6 Interstate and Defense Highways or other highways in  
7 the system of State highways.

8 (E) The requirements for a civilian escort vehicle  
9 and driver are as follows:

10 (1) The civilian escort vehicle shall be a  
11 passenger car or a second division vehicle not  
12 exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 8,000 pounds  
13 that is designed to afford clear and unobstructed  
14 vision to both front and rear.

15 (2) The escort vehicle driver must be properly  
16 licensed to operate the vehicle.

17 (3) While in use, the escort vehicle must be  
18 equipped with illuminated rotating, oscillating,  
19 or flashing amber lights or flashing amber strobe  
20 lights mounted on top that are of sufficient  
21 intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal  
22 sunlight.

23 (4) "OVERSIZE LOAD" signs are mandatory on all  
24 escort vehicles. The sign on an escort vehicle  
25 shall have 8-inch high black letters on a yellow  
26 sign that is 5 feet wide by 12 inches high.

1           (5) When only one escort vehicle is required  
2 and it is operating on a two-lane highway, the  
3 escort vehicle shall travel approximately 300 feet  
4 ahead of the load. The rotating, oscillating, or  
5 flashing lights or flashing amber strobe lights  
6 and an "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign shall be displayed on  
7 the escort vehicle and shall be visible from the  
8 front. When only one escort vehicle is required and  
9 it is operating on a multilane divided highway, the  
10 escort vehicle shall travel approximately 300 feet  
11 behind the load and the sign and lights shall be  
12 visible from the rear.

13           (6) When 2 escort vehicles are required, one  
14 escort shall travel approximately 300 feet ahead  
15 of the load and the second escort shall travel  
16 approximately 300 feet behind the load. The  
17 rotating, oscillating, or flashing lights or  
18 flashing amber strobe lights and an "OVERSIZE  
19 LOAD" sign shall be displayed on the escort  
20 vehicles and shall be visible from the front on the  
21 lead escort and from the rear on the trailing  
22 escort.

23           (7) When traveling within the corporate limits  
24 of a municipality, the escort vehicle shall  
25 maintain a reasonable and proper distance from the  
26 oversize load, consistent with existing traffic

1 conditions.

2 (8) A separate escort shall be provided for  
3 each load hauled.

4 (9) The driver of an escort vehicle shall obey  
5 all traffic laws.

6 (10) The escort vehicle must be in safe  
7 operational condition.

8 (11) The driver of the escort vehicle must be  
9 in radio contact with the driver of the vehicle  
10 carrying the oversize load.

11 (F) A transport vehicle while under load of more  
12 than 8 feet 6 inches in width must be equipped with an  
13 illuminated rotating, oscillating, or flashing amber  
14 light or lights or a flashing amber strobe light or  
15 lights mounted on the top of the cab that are of  
16 sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in  
17 normal sunlight. If the load on the transport vehicle  
18 blocks the visibility of the amber lighting from the  
19 rear of the vehicle, the vehicle must also be equipped  
20 with an illuminated rotating, oscillating, or flashing  
21 amber light or lights or a flashing amber strobe light  
22 or lights mounted on the rear of the load that are of  
23 sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in  
24 normal sunlight.

25 (G) When a flashing amber light is required on the  
26 transport vehicle under load and it is operating on a

1 two-lane highway, the transport vehicle shall display  
2 to the rear at least one rotating, oscillating, or  
3 flashing light or a flashing amber strobe light and an  
4 "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign. When a flashing amber light is  
5 required on the transport vehicle under load and it is  
6 operating on a multilane divided highway, the sign and  
7 light shall be visible from the rear.

8 (H) Maximum speed shall be 45 miles per hour on all  
9 such moves or 5 miles per hour above the posted minimum  
10 speed limit, whichever is greater, but the vehicle  
11 shall not at any time exceed the posted maximum speed  
12 limit.

13 (3) Portable buildings designed and used for  
14 agricultural and livestock raising operations that are not  
15 more than 14 feet wide and with not more than a 1 foot  
16 overhang along the left side of the hauling vehicle.  
17 However, the buildings shall not be transported more than  
18 10 miles and not on any route that is part of the National  
19 System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

20 All buildings when being transported shall display at least  
21 2 red cloth flags, not less than 12 inches square, mounted as  
22 high as practicable on the left and right side of the building.

23 A State Police escort shall be required if it is necessary  
24 for this load to use part of the left lane when crossing any 2  
25 laned State highway bridge.

26 (c) Vehicles propelled by electric power obtained from

1 overhead trolley wires operated wholly within the corporate  
2 limits of a municipality are also exempt from the width  
3 limitation.

4 (d) Exemptions are also granted to vehicles designed for  
5 the carrying of more than 10 persons under the following  
6 conditions:

7 (1) (Blank);

8 (2) (Blank); ~~When operated within any public~~  
9 ~~transportation service with the approval of local~~  
10 ~~authorities or an appropriate public body authorized by law~~  
11 ~~to provide public transportation. Any vehicle so operated~~  
12 ~~may be 8 feet 6 inches in width; or~~

13 (3) (Blank). ~~When a county engineer or superintendent~~  
14 ~~of highways, after giving due consideration to the mass~~  
15 ~~transportation needs of the area and to the width and~~  
16 ~~condition of the road, has determined that the operation of~~  
17 ~~buses wider than 8 feet will not pose an undue safety~~  
18 ~~hazard on a particular county or township road segment, he~~  
19 ~~or she may authorize buses not to exceed 8 feet 6 inches in~~  
20 ~~width on any highway under that engineer's or~~  
21 ~~superintendent's jurisdiction.~~

22 (d-1) A recreational vehicle, as defined in Section 1-169,  
23 may exceed 8 feet 6 inches in width if:

24 (1) the excess width is attributable to appurtenances  
25 that extend 6 inches or less beyond either side of the body  
26 of the vehicle; and



1           (2) the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling has  
2           marked lanes for vehicular traffic that are at least 11  
3           feet in width.

4           As used in this subsection (d-1) and in subsection (d-2),  
5           the term appurtenance includes (i) a retracted awning and its  
6           support hardware and (ii) any appendage that is intended to be  
7           an integral part of a recreation vehicle.

8           (d-2) A recreational vehicle that exceeds 8 feet 6 inches  
9           in width as provided in subsection (d-1) may travel any roadway  
10          of the State if the vehicle is being operated between a roadway  
11          permitted under subsection (d-1) and:

12           (1) the location where the recreation vehicle is  
13           garaged;

14           (2) the destination of the recreation vehicle; or

15           (3) a facility for food, fuel, repair, services, or  
16           rest.

17          (e) A vehicle and load traveling upon the National System  
18          of Interstate and Defense Highways or any other highway in the  
19          system of State highways that has been designated as a Class I  
20          or Class II highway by the Department, or any street or highway  
21          designated by local authorities, may have a total outside width  
22          of 8 feet 6 inches, provided that certain safety devices that  
23          the Department determines as necessary for the safe and  
24          efficient operation of motor vehicles shall not be included in  
25          the calculation of width.

26          (e-1) A vehicle and load more than 8 feet wide but not

1 exceeding 8 feet 6 inches in width is allowed access according  
2 to the following:

3 (1) A vehicle and load not exceeding 73,280 pounds in  
4 weight is allowed access from any State designated highway  
5 onto any county, township, or municipal highway for a  
6 distance of 5 highway miles for the purpose of loading and  
7 unloading, provided:

8 (A) The vehicle and load does not exceed 65 feet  
9 overall length.

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) A vehicle and load not exceeding 73,280 pounds in  
14 weight is allowed access from any State designated highway  
15 onto any county or township highway for a distance of 5  
16 highway miles or onto any municipal highway for a distance  
17 of one highway mile for the purpose of food, fuel, repairs,  
18 and rest, provided:

19 (A) The vehicle and load does not exceed 65 feet  
20 overall length.

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

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

24 (3) A vehicle and load not exceeding 80,000 pounds in  
25 weight is allowed access from a Class I highway onto any  
26 street or highway for a distance of one highway mile for

1 the purpose of loading, unloading, food, fuel, repairs, and  
2 rest, provided there is no sign prohibiting that access.

3 (4) A vehicle and load not exceeding 80,000 pounds in  
4 weight is allowed access from a Class I or Class II highway  
5 onto any State highway or any locally designated highway  
6 for a distance of 5 highway miles for the purpose of  
7 loading, unloading, food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

8 (5) A trailer or semi-trailer not exceeding 28 feet 6  
9 inches in length, that was originally in combination with a  
10 truck tractor, shall have unlimited access to points of  
11 loading and unloading.

12 (6) All household goods carriers shall have unlimited  
13 access to points of loading and unloading.

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

17 (f) Mirrors required by Section 12-502 of this Code and  
18 other safety devices identified by the Department may project  
19 up to 14 inches beyond each side of a bus and up to 6 inches  
20 beyond each side of any other vehicle, and that projection  
21 shall not be deemed a violation of the width restrictions of  
22 this Section.

23 (g) Any person who is convicted of violating this Section  
24 is subject to the penalty as provided in paragraph (b) of  
25 Section 15-113.

26 (Source: P.A. 93-177, eff. 7-11-03; 94-949, eff. 1-1-07.)