

# SB2579



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

SB2579

Introduced 1/18/2012, 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 a semitrailer longer than 48 feet, in combination with a truck tractor.

LRB097 16494 HEP 61662 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) (Blank). ~~The distance between the kingpin and the~~  
9 ~~center of the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48~~  
10 ~~feet, in combination with a truck tractor, may not exceed~~  
11 ~~45 feet 6 inches.~~

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

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

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

24 (6) Stinger steered semitrailer vehicles as defined in  
25 Chapter 1, specifically designed to transport motor  
26 vehicles or boats, may not exceed 75 feet overall



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

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

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

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

26 A tow truck in combination with a disabled vehicle or

1 combination of disabled vehicles, as provided in paragraph (6)  
2 of subsection (c) of this Section, is exempt from length  
3 limitations.

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

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

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

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

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.~~

24 (3) A truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or truck  
25 tractor semitrailer-semitrailer combination may not exceed  
26 65 feet in dimension from front axle to rear axle.

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

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

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

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

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

23           Vehicles operating during daylight hours when transporting  
24 poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of a structural  
25 nature that cannot readily be dismembered are exempt from  
26 length limitations, provided that no object may exceed 80 feet

1 in length and the overall dimension of the vehicle including  
2 the load may not exceed 100 feet. This exemption does not apply  
3 to operation on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal  
4 holidays referred to in this Section are the days on which the  
5 following traditional holidays are celebrated: New Year's Day;  
6 Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day;  
7 and Christmas Day.

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

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

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

22 The length limitations described in this paragraph (e)  
23 shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices,  
24 such as bumpers, refrigeration units or air compressors and  
25 other devices, that the Department may interpret as necessary  
26 for safe and efficient operation; except that no device

1 excluded under this paragraph shall have by its design or use  
2 the capability to carry cargo.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (e-2) Except as provided in subsection (e-3), combinations

1 of vehicles over 65 feet in length, with no overall length  
2 limitation except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of  
3 this Section, are allowed access as follows:

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

8 (2) From a Class I or Class II highway onto any State  
9 highway or any locally designated highway for a distance of  
10 5 highway miles for the purpose of loading, unloading,  
11 food, fuel, repairs, and rest.

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

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

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

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.~~

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

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

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

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

26 (A) It is specifically designed as a tow truck

1           having a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000  
2           pounds and equipped with air brakes, provided that air  
3           brakes are required only if the towing vehicle is  
4           towing a vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer  
5           combination that is equipped with air brakes.

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

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

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

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

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

26          New Year's Day;



1           Memorial Day;  
2           Independence Day;  
3           Labor Day;  
4           Thanksgiving Day; and  
5           Christmas Day.

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

21          (i) The load upon the front vehicle of a combination of  
22          vehicles specifically designed to transport motor vehicles  
23          shall not extend more than 3 feet beyond the foremost part of  
24          the transporting vehicle and the load upon the rear  
25          transporting vehicle shall not extend more than 4 feet beyond  
26          the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle. This paragraph

1 shall only be applicable upon highways designated in paragraphs  
2 (d) and (e) of this Section.

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

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

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

14 (j-1) (Blank).

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

18 (l) (Blank).

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