

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2026

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide for a department of transportation long combination vehicle study and pilot program; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; to provide for a loan authorization; and to provide an expiration date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LONG COMBINATION VEHICLE STUDY - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.

1. During the 2021-22 interim, the department of transportation shall study the feasibility and impact of long combination vehicle operations on North Dakota roadways and establish a committee of stakeholders as an advisory committee to the department of transportation as to the weight and length of vehicle configuration to study. The study must include:
 - a. An assessment of the federal regulations impacting long combination vehicle operations;
 - b. An evaluation of the economic benefits and cost impact of permitting long combination vehicle operations in the state, including modal diversion, in particular the impact on North Dakota shortline railroads and rural communities served by the railroads;
 - c. An assessment of the impact long combination vehicle operations would have on North Dakota roads, bridges, and structures;
 - d. An analysis of the safety impacts of the long combination vehicles, including braking, equipment wear and tear, compatibility of the vehicles with automobile traffic, suitability of state and local roads to accommodate long combination vehicles, and crash severity;
 - e. An assessment of the costs associated with implementing long combination vehicle operations; and
 - f. A recommendation for a method of recovering the full costs of the damages to North Dakota roads and bridges from the operations of long combination vehicles.
2. Before August 1, 2022, the department of transportation shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the legislative management.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - LONG COMBINATION VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM - LOAN AUTHORIZATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of transportation for the purpose of conducting a long combination vehicle pilot program, in collaboration with

the upper great plains transportation institute, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023. The department of transportation may borrow \$3,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank of North Dakota, which is appropriated to the department of transportation to make any needed repairs as a result of damages or improvements needed to conduct the pilot program. The department of transportation shall request from the sixty-eighth legislative assembly an appropriation to repay any outstanding loans authorized in this section. The funding in this section is a one-time funding item. Upon the approval of county transportation officials, the department of transportation, in collaboration with local law enforcement, highway patrol, and the upper great plains transportation institute, shall establish a long combination vehicle pilot program to operate on North Dakota roadways, only upon approval by the United States department of transportation and the federal motor carrier safety administration, if required. The department of transportation shall seek any needed approvals from the United States department of transportation and the federal motor carrier safety administration to conduct the pilot program if necessary. The department of transportation shall establish the parameters and policies regarding the use and operation of long combination vehicles on state, county, city, or local roadways, including designation of routes, hours of operation, and length and weight restrictions.

SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through June 30, 2023, and after that date is ineffective."

Renumber accordingly