

Testimony
House Bill 1181
January 20, 2023

Chairman Ruby, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Douglas Thompson, I reside in Minot, ND and I am a CDL driver currently employed with General Equipment & Supplies INC. a longtime North Dakota company. I haul heavy equipment throughout the state of North Dakota. I appear before you today to provide testimony regarding House Bill 1181..

The current law (located in ND oversized regulations) Procedure A, Section 2, Subsection A states

- Permit requirements 1.2. Permits must be in possession prior to starting any movement. They shall designate the route to be traveled and may contain such other restrictions as deemed necessary by the NDHP or NDDOT engineers. The NDHP has the authority to revoke permits when the holder violates or abuses the privilege or conditions of the permits. General travel restrictions A single trip permit shall not be issued authorizing over dimensional movements from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise unless: 1) ten feet in width and one hundred twenty feet or less in length, or 2) Approved by the superintendent.

Source: PERMITS FOR OVERSIZE AND OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES AND/OR LOADS EXCLUDING WORKOVER RIGS NDHP motor Carrier Division Ref. 9-6 (4/2022)

I am here today to request a change in House Bill 1181 to adopt a wider restriction at all times of the day to Twelve feet wide, at this width a driver will be within our lane of travel with an oversized load. As we all know being in the midwest, fall and winter leads to shorter days. For example in the month of December we average 8.5 hours of daylight. For example, if a driver was to leave Minot, ND with an oversized load to deliver in Fargo, ND, it takes on average 4.5 hours to drive to Fargo. Once there the driver then is required to take a .5 hour break that leaves 3.5 hours for the driver to get almost back to Minot, ND. This leaves the driver 1 hour from home, having to stop at a local truck stop for the evening. This then in turn increases the amount of trucks in the already overcrowded truck stops, and in the scenario above there are often no truck stops within an hour of Minot, ND to safely stop. There are other states that have offered for oversized loads to be within higher width regulations. Our neighboring state of Minnesota offers the oversized load to be 16 wide which in turn helps the driver to maximize their logbooks. Wisconsin has 12 foot restrictions for night. I believe that widening our oversized load regulations would be extremely beneficial for the entire state.

Thank you Chairman Ruby and members of the committee, I will now stand for any questions.