

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee Code Not Found Committee

BILL: SB 1946

INTRODUCER: Senator Baker

SUBJECT: Transportation of Agricultural Products

DATE: March 20, 2008

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Davis	Meyer	TR	Pre-meeting
2.			AG	
3.			TA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill revises restrictions on use of certain agriculture-related vehicles and provides conditions for use of agricultural equipment and implements of husbandry. The bill authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue blanket multitrip, overwidth permits for agricultural equipment and implements of husbandry up to certain size and single-trip and overwidth permits for larger agricultural equipment and implements of husbandry. The bill also provides fees for overwidth permits and specifies conditions for permitted vehicle movements.

This bill substantially amends s. 316.515, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Section 316.515(5)(a), F.S., provides straight trucks, agricultural tractors, and cotton module movers, not exceeding 50 feet in length, or any combination of up to three implements of husbandry, including the towing power unit, and any single agricultural trailer with a load, or any agricultural implements attached to a towing power unit not exceeding 130 inches in width, or a self-propelled agricultural implement or an agricultural tractor not exceeding 130 inches in width, is authorized for the purpose of transporting peanuts, grains, soybeans, cotton, hay, straw, or other perishable farm products from their point of production to and from the first point of change of custody or of long-term storage, or for the purpose of moving such equipment to be issued overwidth permits by DOT.

Section 316.515(5)(b), F.S., provides equipment not exceeding 136 inches in width and not capable of speeds exceeding 20 miles per hour used exclusively for harvesting forestry products is authorized, without a permit, for the purpose of transporting equipment from one point of

harvest to another point of harvest, not to exceed 10 miles. Such vehicles must be operated during daylight hours only, in accordance with all safety requirements prescribed by s. 316.2295(5) and (6), F.S.

In addition, current law authorizes DOT to issue overwidth permits for implements of husbandry greater than 130 inches, but not more than 170 inches, in width and overlength permits for cotton module movers greater than 50 feet but not more than 55 feet in overall length for a fee of \$25 for a trip permit or \$250 for an annual blanket permit.

All vehicles included s. 316.515(5), F.S., must comply with all safety requirements prescribed by s. 316.2295, F.S., and DOT rules. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Every farm tractor and every self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1972, shall be equipped with vehicular hazard-warning lights visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the front and rear in normal sunlight, which shall be displayed whenever any such vehicle is operated upon a highway.
- Every farm tractor and every self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1972, shall at all times, and every other such motor vehicle shall at all times mentioned in s. 316.217, F.S., be equipped with lamps and reflectors as follows:
 - At least two headlamps;
 - At least one red lamp visible when lighted from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear mounted as far to the left of the center of the vehicle as practicable; and
 - At least two red reflectors visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps;
- In addition to the requirements above, every combination of farm tractor and towed farm equipment or towed implement of husbandry shall at all times be equipped with lamps and reflectors as follows:
 - If the towed unit or its load extends more than 4 feet to the rear of the tractor or obscures any light thereon, the unit shall be equipped on the rear with at least two red reflectors visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps.
 - If the towed unit of such combination extends more than 4 feet to the left of the centerline of the tractor, the unit shall be equipped on the front with an amber reflector visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet to the front when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps. This reflector shall be so positioned to indicate, as nearly as practicable, the extreme left projection of the towed unit.
- Every farm tractor and every self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry designed for operation at speeds not in excess of 25 miles per hour shall at all times be equipped with a slow moving vehicle emblem mounted on the rear, except for:

- When the towed unit or any load thereon obscures the slow moving vehicle emblem on the farm tractor, the towed unit shall be equipped with a slow moving vehicle emblem. In such cases, the towing vehicle need not display the emblem.
- When the slow moving vehicle emblem on the farm tractor unit is not obscured by the towed unit or its load, then either or both may be equipped with the required emblem, but it shall be sufficient if either has it.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill revises restrictions in current law authorizing agricultural equipment and implements of husbandry. Specifically the bill:

- Increases the existing width restrictions from a width not exceeding 130 inches, but no more than 170 inches, to a width of 192 inches, but no more than 264 inches, used for agricultural purposes to move from one point of agricultural production to another, if such movement is performed during daylight hours within a radius of 50 miles of the point of origin;
- Limits the movement to highways not designated as a part of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways or any fully controlled access highway facility;
- Authorizes DOT to issue blanket multitrip, overwidth permits for agricultural equipment and implements of husbandry greater than 192 inches, but no more than 264 inches in width. The annual fee for the blanket multitrip, overwidth permit shall be \$25;
- Authorizes DOT to issue single-trip, overwidth permits for agricultural equipment and implements of husbandry greater than 264 inches in width. The fee for a single-trip, overwidth permit shall be \$50, and the equipment must have flags, lights, signs, and an escort; and
- Deletes the references to specific agricultural products transported by these vehicles.

All vehicles included in these proposed changes must comply with all safety requirements prescribed by s. 316.2295(5) and (6), F.S., and DOT rules.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Persons engaged in the agricultural industry operating vehicles within the limits specified in the bill would have to pay \$25 for an annual multi-trip permit and \$50 for a single trip permit.

Persons engaged in the agricultural industry would not be required to obtain and pay for a permit for vehicles greater than 130 inches and less than 192 inches in width.

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the DOT, this bill has a minor negative fiscal impact of approximately \$42,615 on the State Transportation Trust Fund from overwidth permit fees.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.