

month computed on an amount no greater than the average daily balance of the account during each monthly billing cycle; provided a minimum finance charge not in excess of 50 cents per month may be imposed, charged or collected.

(c) No finance charge in excess of 1-1/3 percent per month shall be imposed on an open end and consumer credit account by any seller whose Minnesota annual gross sales exceeds 25 million dollars.

**Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 3 are effective the day following final enactment, section 4, is effective October 1, 1981.

Approved June 1, 1981

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**CHAPTER 348 — S.F.No. 537**

*An act relating to highway traffic regulations; increasing the length of certain vehicles; establishing permit fees for certain oversize vehicles; creating a legislative study commission; clarifying the operation of certain combination vehicles; amending Minnesota Statutes 1980, Sections 169.81, Subdivision 3; 169.86, Subdivision 5; and 169.861.*

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:**

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 169.81, Subdivision 3, is amended to read:

**Subd. 3. LENGTH OF COMBINATIONS AND SEMITRAILERS AND TRUCK-TRACTORS.** (a) No combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck-tractor and semitrailers, shall consist of more than two units unless the combination consists of a truck-tractor and semitrailer drawing one additional semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary dolly, and no combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 60 feet. The limitation shall not apply to the transportation of telegraph poles, telephone poles, electric light and power poles, piling, or pole length pulpwood, and is subject to the following further exceptions: The length limitations shall not apply to vehicles when transporting pipe, or other objects by a public utility when required for emergency or repair of public service facilities or when operated under special permits as provided in this subdivision, but with respect to night transportation a vehicle and the load shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps and marker lamps on both sides and upon the extreme ends of a projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load. Mount combinations may be drawn but the combinations may not exceed ~~60~~ 65 feet in length. The limitation on the number of units shall not

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apply to vehicles used for transporting milk from point of production to point of first processing, in which case no combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, including truck-tractor and semitrailers, shall consist of more than three units and no combination of those vehicles shall exceed a total length of 60 feet. For the purpose of registration, trailers coupled with a truck-tractor, semitrailer combination shall be considered the same as semitrailers. The state, as to state trunk highways, and a city or town, as to roads or streets located within the city or town, may issue permits authorizing the transportation of combinations of vehicles exceeding the limitations in this subdivision over highways, roads or streets within their boundaries. Combinations of vehicles authorized by this subdivision may be restricted as to the use of highways by the commissioner, as to state trunk highways, and a road authority, as to highways or streets subject to its jurisdiction. Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to alter or change the authority vested in local authorities under the provisions of section 169.04. This subdivision shall not apply to the operation of combinations of vehicles subject to the provisions of section 169.861.

(b) No single semitrailer or trailer shall have an overall length, exclusive of rear protective bumpers which do not increase the overall length by more than six inches and further exclusive of accessory equipment mounted or located on the end of the semitrailer or trailer adjacent to the truck or truck-tractor, in excess of 45 feet, except for those semitrailers governed by subdivisions 3a, 3b and 7. For purposes of determining compliance with the provisions of this subdivision, the length of the semitrailer or trailer shall be determined separate from the overall length of the combination of vehicles.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 169.86, Subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. ~~FEES. To cover administrative costs in issuing such permits,~~ The commissioner, with respect to highways under his jurisdiction, may charge a fee of \$5 for each such permit issued, ~~except a seasonal transportation permit to contractors who move their own construction machinery and equipment for their own use, the fee for which seasonal permit shall be \$25. An annual permit may be issued for refuse compactor vehicles which will permit up to but not in excess of 22,000 pounds on a single rear axle and not in excess of 38,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle. The fee for this annual permit shall be \$50.~~ All such fees for permits issued by the commissioner of transportation shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the trunk highway fund. Except for those annual permits for which the permit fees are specified elsewhere in this chapter, the fees shall be:

(a) \$12 for each single trip permit.

(b) \$12 for each job permit. A job permit may be issued for like loads carried on a specific route for a period not to exceed two months. "Like loads" means loads of the same product, weight and dimension.

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(c) \$60 for an annual permit to be issued for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months. Annual permits may be issued for:

- (1) truck cranes;
- (2) construction equipment, machinery, and supplies;
- (3) mobile homes;
- (4) farm equipment when the movement is not made according to the provisions of section 169.80, subdivision 1, clauses (a) to (f).
- (5) refuse compactor vehicles that carry a gross weight up to but not in excess of 22,000 pounds on a single rear axle and not in excess of 38,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle;
- (6) motor vehicles used to alleviate a temporary crisis adversely affecting the safety or well-being of the public;
- (7) motor vehicles which travel on interstate highways and carry loads authorized under subdivision 1a.

### Sec. 3. HIGHWAY POLICY STUDY COMMISSION.

Subdivision 1. There is hereby created an interim commission to study the contracting of trunk highway maintenance by counties, and the collection of highway user taxes from out-of-state vehicles.

The study of county maintenance is to include:

- (a) historical and projected department of transportation expenditures including administrative, operating and capital expenditures for trunk highway maintenance, maintenance preservation, and associated activities;
- (b) the experience of other states and Minnesota in contracting with governmental subdivisions for highway maintenance and associated activities; and a review of existing procedures for contracts between the department of transportation and local governments;
- (c) consideration of alternatives which contemplate contracting with all counties, groups of counties, or several specific counties to perform maintenance functions on trunk highways;
- (d) identification of the costs and benefits in each alternative to the state and to the pertinent counties, including the costs and benefits associated with operating, administrative, equipment, and capital expenditures;
- (e) consideration of personnel issues, including but not limited to the transfer of affected state employees to county employment, and any effect on compensation and pensions;
- (f) consideration of tort liability issues and how they might be addressed;

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(g) any other pertinent matters.

The study of the collection of highway user taxes from motor vehicles registered in other states is to include:

(a) overview of the origination, routes, weight, and destination of truck shipments;

(b) current and alternative mechanisms to collect user revenues from out-of-state trucks, including reciprocity agreements for licenses and fuel;

(c) cost-effectiveness of alternative administrative and legislative methods to collect user revenues from out-of-state trucks;

(d) any other pertinent matters.

Subd. 2. The interim commission shall consist of seven members of the senate appointed by the subcommittee on committees of the committee on rules and administration of the senate and seven members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house. Payment of the expenses of the interim commission, including reimbursement for the expenses of the members shall be made pursuant to the rules of the legislature. Expenses of the commission shall be approved by the chairman and the expenses shall be paid in the same manner as other state expenses are paid. The commission shall select a chairman and other officers from its membership.

Subd. 3. The interim commission may request information and staff assistance from any state officer or agency to assist it in carrying out its duties, and such information and staff assistance shall be promptly furnished to the extent permitted by law.

Subd. 4. The interim commission shall exist and act from the date its members are appointed. The commission shall file a report with the legislature by February 1, 1982, and shall be terminated upon that date.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 169.861, is amended to read:

**169.861 PERMITS FOR OPERATION OF CERTAIN COMBINATIONS; FEES.**

**Subdivision 1. APPLICATIONS.** ~~The commissioner shall issue an annual permit to enable~~ A combination of vehicles consisting of a truck and semitrailer or a truck-tractor and semitrailer drawing one additional semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary dolly between 55 and 65 feet in length ~~to may~~ operate on the public highways. ~~The permit shall entitle the combination of vehicles to operate~~ only on divided highways having four or more lanes of travel, and on such other highways as may be designated by the commissioner of transportation subject to section 169.87, subdivision 1, and subject to the approval of the authority having jurisdiction over such highway, for the purpose of providing access between such divided highways of four or more lanes of

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travel and truck terminals and marshalling yards or for the purpose of providing continuity of route. All vehicles operated under the provisions of this section shall conform to the standards for such vehicles as prescribed by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety, and as may be amended.

Subd. 2. **DISPLAY.** The permit issued under this section shall at all times be carried in or upon the vehicle supplying the mode of power for the combination of vehicles for which it has been issued.

Subd. 3. **FEES.** The commissioner is authorized to charge a fee of \$75 for such annual permit for each combination exceeding 55 but not more than 60 feet in length; and \$200 for each combination exceeding 60 but not more than 65 feet in length. All such fees for permits issued by the commissioner shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the highway user tax distribution fund. This fee may be prorated in the same manner as registration fees are prorated pursuant to section 168.187. For those vehicles not covered by section 168.187 or reciprocal agreements pursuant to section 168.181, a trip fee of \$40 for combinations exceeding 55 but not more than 60 feet in length and \$20 for combinations exceeding 60 but not more than 65 feet in length may be charged.

Approved June 1, 1981

#### CHAPTER 349 — S.F.No. 539

*An act relating to family law; allowing joint custody of minor children; providing for acknowledgements of paternity; changing provisions related to venue; providing for disposition of certain marital property; providing for child support enforcement fees; amending Minnesota Statutes 1980, Sections 257.34, Subdivision 1; 518.003, by adding a subdivision; 518.09; 518.145; 518.17; 518.551; and 518.58.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 257.34, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. The mother and father of an illegitimate out of wedlock child may, in a writing signed by both of them before a notary public, declare and acknowledge under oath that they are the biological parents of the child. The declaration may provide that any illegitimate out of wedlock child born to the mother ~~on or~~ at any time before or up to ten months after the date of execution of the declaration is the biological child of the signatories. Execution of the declaration shall:

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