

## OVERSIZE LOADS

### LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)). The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

**Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.**

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### Background Materials and Research

**Topic Summary:** Montana legislation related to oversize loads in the last 10 years ranges from redefining weight and size to better regulating fees for oversize loads on certain highways. In 2013, the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee (RTIC) was tasked with [Senate Joint Resolution 26](#), which requested a study of the transporting of oversize loads through the state. Most recent legislation during the 2017 legislative session focused on increasing the allowable dimensions of certain automobile transporters to conform with federal law.

**Legislative Services Division Materials:** As defined in [sections 61-10-101 through 61-10-103](#), MCA, a vehicle, including a bus, unloaded or with load, may not have a total outside width in excess of 102 inches, may not exceed a height of 14 feet, and may not have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of 55 feet. This width for buses is allowed only on paved highways 20 feet or more in width. In the 2013-2014 legislative interim, the (RTIC) conducted the SJR 26 Study on Transporting Oversize Loads. The final report and other materials related to the study can be found [here](#).

### Other Materials:

[Aligning Oversize/Overweight Fees with Agency Costs: Critical Issues](#) – Wisconsin Department of Transportation

### Introduced Legislation

#### 2019

[House Bill No. 611](#) – (H) Died in Process -- A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LOAD SECURING LAW FOR VEHICLES ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS HAULING TRASH; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-370, MCA.

## 2017

[House Bill No. 41](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE DIMENSIONS OF CERTAIN AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTERS TO CONFORM WITH FEDERAL LAW; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 61-10-104, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

## 2015

[House Bill No. 222](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT PROHIBITING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH SELF-GOVERNING POWERS FROM REQUIRING FEES AND PERMITS FOR MOVEMENT OF OVERSIZE LOADS ON CERTAIN HIGHWAYS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 7-1-111, 7-14-4102, 7-14-4103, 7-14-4104, 61-10-121, AND 61-12-101, MCA.

[House Bill No. 246](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN FEES COLLECTED FOR OVERSIZE OR OVERWEIGHT LOAD PERMITS BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DEPOSIT IN THE HIGHWAY NONRESTRICTED ACCOUNT; AMENDING SECTION 61-10-126, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 338](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT EXCLUDING CERTAIN VEHICLES FROM CERTAIN MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMITATIONS IF TRAVELING ON PORTIONS OF MONTANA HIGHWAY 16; EXTENDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-10-107, MCA.

## 2013

[House Bill No. 513](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT EXEMPTING PERMITS FOR OVERSIZE VEHICLES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-10-121, MCA.

[Senate Joint Resolution No. 26](#) – (S) Filed with Secretary of State -- A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE TRANSPORTING OF OVERSIZE LOADS THROUGH MONTANA.

## 2011

[House Bill No. 246](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT INCREASING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT FOR A VEHICLE WITH AT LEAST SIX AXLES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-10-107 AND 61-10-125, MCA.

[House Bill No. 251](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A REAR FLAG VEHICLE ESCORT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES OVER 12 1/2 FEET IN WIDTH EXCEPT IF THE VEHICLE PASSES THROUGH A HAZARDOUS AREA; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-10-102, MCA.

## 2009

[Senate Bill No. 268](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT REVISING THE LAW REQUIRING CERTAIN VEHICLES TO SECURE CERTAIN LOADS WHEN TRAVELING ON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-370, MCA.

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