

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 348

BY SENATOR RISER

FEES/LICENSES/PERMITS. Provides relative to operation of dual-purpose farm and construction equipment on highways. (8/1/14)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:385(A)(1), relative to motor vehicles; to provide with respect
3 to the requirements for farm vehicles and equipment or for dual-purpose farm and
4 construction equipment or machinery to operate on highways; to provide for
5 exemptions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 32:385(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §385. Farm vehicles and equipment; exemptions

9 A.(1)(a) Farm and agricultural vehicles and equipment, except draglines and
10 bulldozers, being operated or transported for bona fide agricultural purposes or the
11 transportation of farm vehicles and equipment **or dual-purpose farm and**
12 **construction equipment or machinery** to be used for normal farm purposes by
13 persons transporting such farm equipment or machinery, for distances not to exceed
14 fifty miles from the point of origin, and fertilizer tending units shall be exempt from
15 the requirements of R.S. 32:380 through 382 and, additionally, farm equipment shall
16 be exempt from the requirements of R.S. 32:384.

17 (b) **Farm and agricultural vehicles and equipment, except draglines and**

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bulldozers, being operated to transport farm equipment and machinery or dual-purpose farm and construction equipment or machinery to be used for normal farm purposes by persons transporting such farm equipment or machinery for distances more than fifty miles from the point of origin shall be exempt from the requirements of R.S. 32:380 through 382, and 384, provided that such vehicles and equipment shall comply with the following requirements:

(i) Operate with escort vehicles ahead of and behind them.

(ii) Observe traffic signals and regulatory signs, including escort vehicles.

(iii) Operate only in daylight hours.

(iv) Do not operate in rain or other weather conditions unsafe for such operation.

(v) Observe all safety standards for farm equipment.

(vi) Do not operate on interstate highways.

(vii) Do not operate on or across a bridge with a posted weight limit.

(c) Trailers and semi-trailers with a gross vehicle weight rating of not more than twelve thousand pounds, when owned and used by a retail business in this state and designed and used exclusively for the purposes of pick-up or delivery of new, used, or repaired farm equipment for distances not to exceed fifty miles from the point of origin, shall be exempt from the requirements of R.S. 32:380.

* * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

DIGEST

Riser (SB 348)

Present law exempts farm and agricultural vehicles and equipment, except draglines and bulldozers, operated for normal farm purposes from width (R.S. 32:380), height (R.S. 32:381), length (R.S. 32:382) and trailers and towed vehicle (R.S. 32:384) requirements provided by law and authorizes such vehicles to use any public highways except interstate highways during the period from 30 minutes after sunrise until 30 minutes before sunset without obtaining a special permit for distances not to exceed 50 miles from the point of origin.

Present law exempts trailers and semi-trailers with a gross vehicle weight rating of not more

than 12,000 pounds from width (R.S.32:380) when owned and used by a retail business in this state and designed and used exclusively for the purposes of pick-up or delivery of new, used, or repaired farm equipment for distances not to exceed 50 miles from the point of origin.

Proposed law adds exemption for dual-purpose farm and construction equipment or machinery.

Proposed law exempts farm and agricultural vehicles and equipment, except draglines and bulldozers, being operated to transport dual-purpose farm and construction equipment or machinery for normal farm purposes from width (R.S. 32:380), height (R.S. 32:381), length (R.S. 32:382) and trailers and towed vehicle (R.S. 32:384) requirements provided by law and authorizes such vehicles to use any public highways except interstate highways during the period from 30 minutes after sunrise until thirty minutes before sunset without obtaining a special permit for distances more than 50 miles from the point of origin provided such vehicles shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Operate with escort vehicles ahead of and behind them.
- (2) Observe traffic signals and regulatory signs, including escort vehicles.
- (3) Operate only in daylight hours.
- (4) Do not operate in rain or other weather conditions unsafe for such operation.
- (5) Observe all safety standards for farm equipment.
- (6) Do not operate on interstate highways.
- (7) Do not operate on or across a bridge with a posted weight limit.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 32:385(A)(1))