



Since 1894

Date: January 29, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Transportation
Sen. Mike Petersen, Chair

From: Taylor Nikkel, Director of Stockgrowers Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: SB 17 AN ACT concerning traffic regulations; relating to the size, weight and loads of vehicles; excepting haulers of grain and other agricultural goods from gross weight limitation for vehicles; amending K.S.A. 8-1909 and repealing the existing section.

Position: Proponent, In-Person.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chairman Petersen, and members of the Committee, for allowing the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) the opportunity to share our views on SB 17. KLA stands in support of SB 17 and suggests an amendment to this bill so that it also applies to the livestock industry. Many KLA members have an interest in trucking regulations and how they impact their operations throughout the state.

It is important to note, the livestock industry relies solely on trucking to transport live animals in Kansas. Since the livestock industry does not have access to rail, increased trucking weights would allow for more flexibility as producers work to meet demand for their product.

SB 17 allows an excess weight tolerance of 10% and 12.5% in certain situations to vehicles transporting certain agricultural products during their respective harvest season. This type of tolerance is not uncommon and can be found in other top agricultural states such as Nebraska (Neb. Rev. Stat. §60-6,301[2]) and South Dakota (S.D. Codified Laws Ann. §§32-22-16.3). These states also include livestock in their exemptions. KLA respectfully requests certain changes be made so that this tolerance is also applicable to those vehicles hauling livestock. Specific changes to the language are attached to this testimony.

Furthermore, KLA suggests increasing the mileage limitation to 150 air miles. This would align this exemption with the current federal hours of service exemption. Finally, in an effort to curb adverse enforcement specific to livestock, KLA suggests adding language that would prevent an overweight citation caused by livestock moving within a trailer. Because a driver can receive a citation for being overweight on a single axle, this suggested change would prevent a citation

if the excess weight was caused by a movement of the livestock, and the vehicle is still within the maximum gross load.

Thank you for the opportunity to share KLA's views with the Committee. KLA asks the Committee to pass SB 17 favorably with an amendment to include livestock, an increased mileage limitation, and language to prevent an overweight citation due to livestock movement.

(4) (A) In the case of a vehicle or combination of vehicles exclusively carrying ~~grain or other seasonally harvested products~~ agricultural commodities, including livestock, during the ~~normal planting and harvesting season periods~~ from the field location where ~~such grain or products are harvested~~ the agricultural commodities are grown to storage, market or stockpile, or from storage or stockpile to market ~~or factory~~ up to 150 air miles, the load may be up to:

(i) 10% greater than the maximum weight shown in the table in this section for vehicles with tandem, triple or quad axles; or

(ii) 12.5% greater than the maximum weight shown in the table in this section for vehicles with a single rear axle.

(B) For vehicles and combinations of vehicles, the maximum gross weight authorized under this paragraph shall not exceed 90,000 pounds.

(C) This paragraph does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways.

(5) Any vehicle or combination of vehicles carrying a load of livestock may exceed the maximum load as permitted by such section on only one axle, only one tandem axle, or only one group of axles when the distance between the first and last axle of the group of axles is six feet or less if the excess load on the axle, tandem axle, or group of axles is caused by a shifting of the weight of the livestock by the livestock and if the vehicle or combination of vehicles is within the maximum gross load as permitted by such section.

(b) Any vehicle registered under the laws of this state which vehicle is designed and used primarily for the transportation of property or for the transportation of 10 or more persons may, at the time of its registration, be subjected by the director of vehicles to investigation or test as may be necessary to enable such director to determine whether such vehicle may safely be operated upon the highways in compliance with all provisions of this act. Every such vehicle shall meet the following requirements: