

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE BILL NO. 518

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROY

MTR VEHICLE/OFFICE: Provides for special permits for the transportation of modular buildings

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:387.13, relative to the transportation of buildings; to provide  
3 for the transportation of modular buildings on highways; to provide for permits for  
4 the transportation of modular buildings on highways; to define "modular building",  
5 "modular undercarriage", and "pole car"; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 32:387.13 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §387.13. Portable and modular buildings; interstate highways; special permits for  
9 modular buildings

10 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the secretary  
11 may issue special permits for the movement of portable and modular buildings, not  
12 to exceed sixteen feet in width: and sixteen feet five inches in height on interstate  
13 highways located in this state. The secretary may issue permits for the movement  
14 of modular vehicles in excess of sixteen feet in width and sixteen feet five inches in  
15 height, provided he has preapproved a safe route and that route is followed, on  
16 interstate highways located in this state. Vehicles transporting portable and modular  
17 buildings on interstate highways shall not exceed a speed of fifty-five miles per hour.

18 B. The provisions of R.S. 32:387 that are not in conflict with this Section are  
19 applicable to the issuance of special permits under this Section.

1 C. The secretary may refuse to issue a special permit under this Section  
2 whenever, because of construction, the condition of the highway, or traffic  
3 conditions thereon, the public would be endangered by the use sought to be  
4 permitted.

5 D. The provisions of R.S. 32:387(B)(1) shall not apply to the permitting of  
6 the transportation of modular buildings provided that the load is securely fastened.

7 E. (1) The transportation of modular buildings under sixteen feet wide and  
8 one hundred twenty-five feet long shall require one private pole car escort leading  
9 each permitted load. The transportation of modular buildings over sixteen feet wide  
10 and one hundred twenty-five feet long shall require a private escort leading and  
11 following a permitted load. Such escorts will be the responsibility of the permit  
12 applicant to obtain. All escort vehicles must have a Louisiana escort permit or  
13 comparable permit from another state. Police escort shall not be required.

14 (2) The leading escort for all loads permitted pursuant to this Section which  
15 are fifteen feet ten inches or higher shall be a pole car.

16 (3) The leading escort for all loads permitted pursuant to this Section which  
17 are over sixteen feet eight inches in height shall be a pole car with an approved  
18 instrument to safely lift utility lines.

19 (4) Permitted loads may be transported from dawn until dusk.

20 (F) As used in this Section:

21 (1) "Modular building" shall mean a structure designed primarily for  
22 residential or commercial occupancy, designed and constructed to meet the standards  
23 of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code, without a permanent chassis,  
24 which is transported on a removable modular undercarriage and which is  
25 manufactured in one or more sections in a factory for installation of a permanent  
26 foundation at its final location. The term does not include mobile homes as defined  
27 by R.S. 32:1(36) or manufactured home as defined by the National Manufactured  
28 Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. §5401, et seq.,  
29 as amended).

1                   (2) "Modular undercarriage" shall mean a trailer constructed specifically for  
 2                   the movement of modular buildings and building components which is not a  
 3                   permanent part of the modular buildings and building and which, when offloaded,  
 4                   is returned to the factory or other locations for reuse.

5                   (3) "Pole car" shall mean a vehicle equipped with a height indicator.

6                   Section 2. The Department of Transportation and Development shall adopt all  
 7 necessary rules, including those related to safety, in accordance with the Administrative  
 8 Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Act.

### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Roy

HB No. 518

**Abstract:** To allow larger modular buildings to be transported on interstate highways within the state.

Present law provides that special permits may be issued for the movement of portable and modular buildings, not to exceed 16 feet in width, or interstate highways located in this state.

Proposed law, retains present law, and provides that special permits may be issued for the movement of portable and modular buildings, not to exceed 16 feet in width and 16 feet 5 inches in height and for larger buildings provided there is an approved safe route.

Proposed law provides that permitted loads shall have certain private escorts, equipped with safety equipment, depending on size of load and that a police escort is not required.

Proposed law provides that permitted loads shall travel during certain hours.

Proposed law defines "modular building" as a structure designed primarily for residential or commercial occupancy, designed and constructed to meet the standards of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code, without a permanent chassis, which is transported on a removable modular undercarriage and which is manufactured in one or more sections in a factory for installation of a permanent foundation at its final location. The term does not include mobile homes or manufactured homes.

Proposed law defines "modular undercarriage" as a trailer constructed specifically for the movement of modular buildings and building components which is not a permanent part of the modular buildings and building and which, when offloaded, is returned to the factory or other locations for reuse.

Proposed law defines "pole car" to mean a vehicle equipped with a height indicator.

Proposed law authorizes the Department of Transportation and Development to adopt all necessary rules to implement the provisions of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 32:387.13)