



MONTANA
ADMINISTRATIVE
REGISTER



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

MAR NOTICE NO. 2026-658.1

Summary

The department proposes to amend ARM 18.8.511A to remove language that contradicts other language within the rule.

Hearing Date and Time

Friday, February 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Hearing Information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/89606176251?pwd=VCuiGPUfX1MJFWCmOrOVbwxaea3WX6.1>

Meeting ID: 896 0617 6251

Password: 974625

Dial by Telephone

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 896 0617 6251

Password: 974625

Find your local number: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/89606176251>

Comments

Interested persons may present their data, views, or arguments at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to the contact person below. Comments must be received by Friday, February 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made by Friday, February 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Contact

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astrong@mt.gov

General Reasonable Necessity Statement

The department proposes to amend ARM 18.8.511A to remove contradictory language pertaining to the width requirements on non-interstate highways for when pilot vehicles are required.

Rulemaking Actions

AMEND

The rules proposed to be amended are as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

18.8.511A WHEN PILOT VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED

- (1) Unless otherwise specified in statute, rule, or the terms of the special permit issued to the permittee, pilot vehicles are required if one or more of the following conditions apply:
 - (a) Non-Interstate highways:
 - (i) Remains the same.
 - (ii) Width – loads exceeding 16 feet 6 inches to 18 feet must have one front and one rear pilot vehicle; ~~length over 120 feet, one rear pilot vehicle;~~

(iii) - (vi) Remain the same.

(b) - (d) Remain the same.

(2) - (7) Remain the same.

Authorizing statute(s): 61-10-155, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 61-10-102, 61-10-121, 61-10-122, 61-10-123, 61-10-124, MCA

Small Business Impact

The proposed rule amendment removes language inadvertently retained during the last update to this rule. The language proposed to be removed contradicts other language within ARM 18.8.511A, which details the requirements for pilot vehicles for overlength commercial vehicles. Because of this, small businesses are not affected by the removal of the language in the rule. The record of the department's small business impact analysis can be provided upon request.

Tribal Impact

With regard to the requirements of 2-15-142, MCA, the department has determined that the proposed amendment solely clears up any potential misunderstanding and contradictory language within the rule, and does not impose new regulations, costs, or restrictions on tribal governments or their entities. As such, the proposed amendment of the above-referenced rules will not have direct tribal implications.

Bill Sponsor Notification

The bill sponsor contact requirements of 2-4-302, MCA, do not apply.

Interested Persons

The department maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this agency. To request inclusion on the Interested Persons list, please send an email to mdtarms@mt.gov with your name, email address, and, if applicable, which program(s) are of interest. Notices are sent by e-mail.

Rule Reviewer

Liz Franklin

Approval

Christopher Dorrington
Director