

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB997**

---

**Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop**

**Committee: Business and Labor**

**Date of Hearing: February 6, 2012**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

To address the issue of unauthorized individuals manipulating high voltage overhead conductors to accommodate oversize loads on state controlled highways. LB 997 amends the High Voltage Safety Statutes 48-436 through 48-438 to clarify that only qualified and authorized employees or others designated by the owner of high voltage conductors and other electric utility infrastructure can manipulate high voltage conductors or other utility infrastructure. LB 997 also changes the definition of high voltage from 720 volts to 600 volts measured between conductors or from conductor to ground.

The bill further amends permitting statutes 60-299 for oversized loads through the Department of Roads to require that permits for slow moving oversized loads include written proof that the electric utility responsible for any high voltage conductors, poles, and other electric-related infrastructure along the proposed route has been notified of the move. Department of Roads currently requires permittees to notify the electric utilities, LB 997 will put that practice into statute.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator John Wightman**