WHEREAS, as of this date the Governor has been informed that for a number of days the State of Florida will experience freezing temperatures that may cause total destruction to many of its growing crops; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the agricultural interests of the State to prevent the destruction of those crops that are vulnerable to extreme temperatures; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of the crops can be saved from the impending freeze by harvesting them and transporting them to processing sites without delay; and

WHEREAS, relaxing the weight, height, length, and width restrictions for commercial vehicles will ensure that the thawed crops are transported to processing sites without delay;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JEB BUSH, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, I hereby find that a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida due to the effect of the impending freeze on growing crops that are vulnerable to destruction because of the extreme temperatures, and that the possible destruction of these crops threatens the State with a major disaster. I further find that transporting the vulnerable crops to processing sites without delay is necessary to save them from destruction, and that the relaxation of the restrictions on the weight, height, length, and width for commercial vehicles transporting these crops is necessary to protect the agricultural interests of the State.
Section 2. I hereby direct the Department of Transportation, State of Florida, to issue temporary permits and to take such other and further action as may be necessary to relieve commercial vehicles transporting shipments of all such vulnerable crops from the normal restrictions on the weight, height, length, and width restrictions for such vehicles. In any event, the weight, height, length, and width for any such commercial vehicle on roadways maintained by the State of Florida shall not exceed the following:

A. The maximum Gross Vehicle Weight for vehicles equipped with five (5) weight-bearing axles with outer bridge spans of not less than forty (40) feet, but less than fifty-one (51) feet, shall not exceed ninety thousand (90,000) pounds.

B. The maximum Gross Vehicle Weight for vehicles equipped with five (5) weight-bearing axles with outer bridge spans of not less than fifty-one (51) feet shall not exceed ninety-five thousand (95,000) pounds.

C. The maximum Gross Vehicle Weight for vehicles equipped with four (4) weight-bearing axles with outer bridge spans of not less than forty-three (43) feet shall not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds.

D. The total length for any vehicle identified above shall not exceed eighty (80) feet.

E. The total width for any vehicle identified above shall not exceed eight (8) feet, six (6) inches.

F. The total height for any vehicle identified above shall not exceed thirteen (13) feet, six (6) inches.

Section 3. Commercial vehicles allowed to operate outside the normal restrictions for such vehicles under the authority of this Executive Order shall be issued permits by the Department of Transportation, and such vehicles shall be subject to such special conditions as the Department may endorse on any such permits.

Section 4. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, nor shall anything in this Executive Order be construed to relieve any vehicle or the carrier, owner, or driver of any vehicle from
compliance with any restrictions other than those specified in this Executive Order, or from any statute, rule, order or other legal requirement not specifically waived herein.

Section 5. This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from date unless extended within that time.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 22nd day of January, 2003.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:
[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE