

STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0329

Date: February 5, 2013

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Mitsch Bush; Scott
Sen. Giron

Bill Status: House Transportation and Energy

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TITLE: CONCERNING AMENDING STATE LAW TO CONFORM TO FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITS FOR PURPOSES OF CONTINUED FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING.

| Fiscal Impact Summary | FY 2013-2014 | FY 2014-2015 |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| State Revenue | | |
| Cash Funds | | |
| State Highway Fund | (\$75,000 to \$100,000) | (\$75,000 to \$100,000) |
| State Expenditures | See State Expenditures section | |
| FTE Position Change | | |
| Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature. | | |
| Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required. | | |
| Local Government Impact: None. | | |

Summary of Legislation

The bill conforms Colorado law with federal standards for vehicle weight limits for vehicles traveling on state highways and bridges.

Background

Federal law establishes weight limits for vehicles traveling on highways that receive federal funds. The current limit is 80,000 pounds or the product of the formula: $W = 500 [(LN/N-1) + 12N + 36]$,¹ whichever is less. Colorado currently imposes additional restrictions, requiring a special permit to travel on highways or bridges if the gross weight of the vehicle exceeds either one of the following limits:

- 36,000 pounds for a vehicle with two axles; or

¹ W equals overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds; L equals distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles; and N equals number of axles in the group under consideration.

- 54,000 pounds for a vehicle with three or more axles.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) recently became aware that the inconsistency between state and federal requirements could affect the state's share of federal transportation funding. Failure to adequately enforce all state laws respecting maximum vehicle sizes and weights can result in a 10 percent reduction in federal-aid funds apportioned to the state for the next fiscal year.

State Revenue

Eliminating the permit requirements for certain vehicles will decrease cash fund revenue from permit fees. The exact reduction is unknown, but is estimated at between \$75,000 and \$100,000 per year beginning in FY 2013-14. Single trip permits cost \$70 and annual permits cost \$400. Revenue is credited to the State Highway Fund.

State Expenditures

This bill conforms Colorado law with federal weight limit standards for vehicles traveling on state highways and bridges, thereby avoiding a potential reduction in federal highway funding of approximately \$50 million.

Departments Contacted

Public Safety Transportation