

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOT 7/20/2006

LRB Number	05-3627/2	Introduction Number	AB-1107	Estimate Type	Original
Description Annual or consecutive month permits for certain vehicles exceeding special or seasonal weight limitations imposed by highway authorities					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill creates a new annual or consecutive month overweight permit, issued by local highway authorities, specifically related to these special posted weight limitations. Under the bill, the officer in charge of maintenance of highways, other than state trunk highways, on which special weight limitations are posted due to climatic conditions may issue annual or consecutive month permits for the transportation of milk, or of garbage, refuse, or recyclable material, or of material pumped from a septic or holding tank, in excess of these special posted weight limitations, but not in excess of generally applicable statutory weight limitations, if the officer determines such transportation is in the interest of public health and safety.

1. Assume local authorities are not able to issue overweight permits applying to state highways. This bill therefore does not apply to state trunk highways. There is no immediate effect at the state level, but would have an effect on local units of government. To the extent that local governments may concede to requests for these exceptions when roads are least able to carry heavier loads without damage to the infrastructure, it is reasonable to expect there would be additional pressure to allow similar exceptions on state highways. Whether on local or state highways, allowing additional damage to public roadways in the state when transportation resources are already overburdened, raises more concerns about the ability to adequately maintain the existing system.
2. Assume, since it is not prohibited in the bill, local authorities may charge fees for the permits.
3. The legislation would create additional tasks for the department with regard to its local roads program. The Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Rails and Harbors would also be responsible for conducting the study required in this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

1. As indicated, there is no immediate state fiscal effect, but it is reasonable to expect there would be additional pressure to allow similar overweight exceptions on state highways.
2. There would be additional life cycle costs at the local level for the more rapid deterioration of local roads.