

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 636

(Senator Hafer)

Finance

Garrett County - Gross Weight of Vehicles - County Roads

This bill permits vehicles with a gross maximum weight over 73,000 pounds to use county roads in Garrett County, subject to the approval of the local governing body and the State Highway Administration (SHA).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources. SHA anticipates a one-time cost of \$5,000 in FY 2004 to conduct a comprehensive review of roads to be traveled by heavier vehicles specified by the bill and annual expenditures of approximately \$1,000.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law restricts travel for vehicles with a gross maximum weight over 73,000 pounds to State highways except while making a delivery or pickup, and then only when traveling by the shortest available legal route. However, if approved by the local governing body and SHA, a vehicle weighing over 73,000 pounds may use a specified road in Dorchester County. The District Court assesses a prepay penalty of \$120 for use of unauthorized routes by these vehicles. Violators are subject to a maximum fine of \$500 under Maryland Vehicle Law.

A county road is any public highway for which the easement title is vested in a public body or governmental agency and is not a State highway or located in Baltimore City.

If SHA or a local authority finds that a highway under its jurisdiction or maintenance is in danger of serious damage from deterioration, rain, snow, or other condition, either may prohibit vehicles from operating on the highway or restrict the vehicle weight or speed limit for that highway. Any owner or person in control of a vehicle that violates certain highway restrictions is liable to SHA or the local authority for all damages sustained by the road.

Additional Comments: SHA advises that the bill will not affect the weight limits imposed for bridges.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 831 (Garrett County Delegation) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Garrett County, Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2003
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