

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 508

(Chair, Environmental Matters Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - State Police)

Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Axle Load Limitations

This departmental bill repeals provisions of the Transportation Article relating to multiple-axle weight limits that are in conflict with federal commercial vehicle weights and measures regulations. The bill also alters the gross weight limit on the front axle of a vehicle combination by specifying that one measure of this limit is the sum of the rated load capacities of each tire on the axle, as indicated by the *current* tires' manufacturer.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is technical in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of State Police has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Maryland adopted the Federal Bridge Formula pursuant to Chapter 537 of 1983. The formula, now codified in Section 24-109 of the Transportation Article, conflicts with the previously enacted law (codified in 24-108), but Chapter 537 allowed for a phase-in period for certain farm vehicles used on noninterstate highways, until April 30, 1999.

Since the expiration of the phase-out, provisions of Section 24-108 have been considered obsolete and in conflict with the Federal Bridge Formula in Section 24-109. However, the provisions have never been repealed and have presented problems for DSP in its law enforcement efforts. DSP advises that eliminating this conflict of laws is essential for proper enforcement of commercial vehicle weight provisions designed to protect the integrity of the State's roads, bridges, and transportation infrastructure.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2011
ncs/ljm

Analysis by: Evan M. Isaacson

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Vehicle Laws – Axle Load Limitations – Repeal

BILL NUMBER: HB 508

PREPARED BY: Maryland State Police

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.