

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 412 – HB 850

March 17, 2015

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Authorizes county highway officials to reduce the maximum gross weight of freight vehicles transporting mobile homes on county roads and bridges for the purpose of preventing damage to such roads and bridges.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004101):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (TDOT) to reduce the maximum gross weight of freight vehicles on secondary roads and bridges for the purpose of preventing damage to such roads and bridges. Grants county officials with the same authority as to county roads under certain circumstances.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

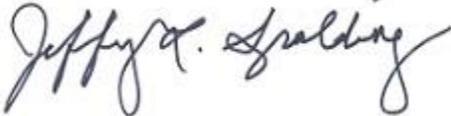
Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-7-205(a)(8), county officials currently have authority to reduce the gross weight restrictions on county roads relative to the transportation of any type of freight.
- Under the provisions of this bill as amended, the authority for county officials to reduce the gross maximum weight restriction on county roads would be slightly diminished, with respect to reducing the weight limit on the roadway surface of a county road below any weight limit set by the commissioner; or a bridge below the weight limit recommended by the department; and prevents the transportation of farm or timber products. Any such reduced weight restriction would be void and of no effect.
- According to the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association, Tennessee weight limits are not currently being enforced due to the lack of law enforcement personnel, which allows for unrestricted unregulated weight limits.
- Given that gross weight restrictions are not strictly enforced by local law enforcement under current law, it is not anticipated that the level of enforcement will change significantly as a result of the amended bill. Therefore, any fiscal impact to state or local government is estimated to be not significant.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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