



SB 412 – HB 850

March 23, 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 AMENDMENTS (004101, 004447): 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 the same authority as to county roads under certain circumstances. Amendment 004447 adds language requiring that no county road weight limit be void, if the road weight limit is established pursuant to a certified engineering study conducted by the county; requires that no county bridge weight limit be void, if the county bridge weight limit is established pursuant to a certified engineering study conducted by the county, and the bridge is not part of the department's bridge inspection program.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Increases Local Expenditures - \$5,000/One-Time/Permissive

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.
- Under the provisions of this bill as amended, no county road weight limit will be void if county road weight limit is established pursuant to a certified engineering study; or a

bridge weight limit is established pursuant to a certified engineering study, and the bridge is not part of the bridge inspection program.

- 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.
- Based on information provided by County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), and to the extent any county performs a necessary study, there will be a one-time permissive increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$5,000.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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