



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1171

PRINTERS NO. 1848

PRIME SPONSOR: Hutchinson

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
Motor License Fund	\$0	\$0
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Provides for restrictions on use of highways and bridges, for securing loads in vehicles, for widths of vehicles and for permit for movement during course of manufacture, and for the promulgation of rules and regulations by PennDOT. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Title 75 (Vehicle Code), further providing for restrictions on use of highways and bridges, for securing loads in vehicles, for widths of vehicles and for permit for movement during course of manufacture, and for the promulgation of rules and regulations by PennDOT.

Provisions Related to Highway Restriction Exemptions: This legislation amends section 4902 (relating to restrictions on use of highways and bridges) of Title 75 to exempt the following vehicles from posted weight limits and bonding requirements on highways in accordance with PennDOT regulations:

1. Government-owned vehicles;
2. Vehicles of local government agency contractors engaged in or providing material for maintenance; and
3. PennDOT contractors engaged in or providing material for construction or maintenance.

The following types of documents shall constitute evidence that the above vehicles are traveling to or from a site as allowed:

1. A bill of lading;
2. A shipping order; or
3. A service order or other document that indicates the address of the site and purpose of the trip.

This legislation also extends the existing exemption from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2028 for at-risk industry of logging or other forest products experiencing a 20% decline in statewide employment between March 2002 and March 2011 as designated by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Provisions Related to the Transport of Baled Garbage: This legislation amends Section 4903 (related to securing loads in vehicles) of Title 75 to allow garbage, municipal waste, waste, refuse or rubbish in a tightly compacted and baled form being transported through or within this Commonwealth to be covered over all exposed areas by being placed within a woven bag. The woven bag must have the purpose of preventing any material from the bales from escaping.

Commercial Implements of Husbandry: A commercial implement of husbandry not exceeding 12 feet in width, including wheels and tires, may be driven between sunrise and sunset on a freeway, not including the Pennsylvania Turnpike or an interstate highway, subject to all of the following:

- (i) The commercial implement of husbandry is capable of reaching speeds of at least 40 miles per hour and maintains a speed of at least 40 miles per hour at all times when being driven on the freeway, unless otherwise required by this title.
- (ii) The tires on the commercial implement of husbandry have a speed rating from the manufacturer of at least 40 miles per hour.
- (iii) The commercial implement of husbandry is not driven for more than 30 miles on the freeway.
- (iv) The commercial implement of husbandry is equipped with one or more flashing or revolving yellow lights in a manner determined by PennDOT.
- (v) The commercial implement of husbandry is driven only in the right lane of the freeway, unless as otherwise required by Title 75 or required when exiting the freeway.
- (vi) The freeway has a maximum speed limit of 65 miles per hour at the locations on which the commercial implement of husbandry is being driven.
- (vii) The individual operating the commercial implement of husbandry is at least 18 years of age and has valid driver's license.
- (viii) The commercial implement of husbandry is being driven to or from a farm, or farms, and the business location of the owner of the commercial implement of husbandry.
- (ix) The commercial implement of husbandry is covered by the minimum levels of liability insurance coverage on the vehicle as required under Chapter 17 by owners of registered motor vehicles.
- (x) The commercial implement of husbandry is followed by a vehicle with continuously activated hazard signal lamps.
- (xi) The height of the commercial implement of husbandry does not exceed the maximum height established in section 4922 (relating to height of vehicles), the length of the commercial implement of husbandry does not exceed the maximum length established in section 4923 (relating to length of vehicles) and the weight of the commercial implement of husbandry does not exceed the maximum weight established in section 4941 (relating to maximum gross weight of vehicles).
- (xii) The department has not prohibited the operation of a commercial implement of husbandry on the freeway in accordance with paragraph (6.2).

Paragraph 6.2 is added to provide that PennDOT may prohibit the operation of a commercial implement of husbandry on the entirety or a portion of a freeway if the prohibition is needed to protect the safety of motorists.

Provisions Related to Number of Axles for Pulpwood or Wood Chips: The legislation amends section 4968 (relating to permit for movement during course of manufacture) to require a combination of vehicles permitted by PennDOT or local authorities hauling pulpwood or wood chips from a specified source to a pulp mill to be a minimum five-axle combination meeting certain characteristics, or a minimum six-axle combination meeting certain characteristics.

Commercial Vehicle Regulations on Intrastate Vehicles: This legislation adds an additional section of exemptions to Federal statutes, regulations, standards, and criteria to be followed under Title 75 relating to motor vehicles transporting property along a highway, regardless of if it is operated as a combination, provided that:

- The vehicle's or combination's gross weight, gross vehicle weight (gvw) rating or gross combination weight rating does not equal or exceed 26,001 pounds; and
- The vehicle or combination is not carrying hazardous materials in an amount that would require the towing or towed vehicle to be permitted under intrastate law; and
- The vehicle or combination is not designed or used to transport 16 or more people, including the driver; and
- The motor vehicle or combination is being used to transport property, including a vehicle, to or from an amateur competitive event, regardless of whether or not the motor vehicle or combination is sponsored for participation in the amateur competitive event.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or municipal funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: July 6, 2022

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.