

Transportation Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-15

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON

Title: STATE PARKWAYS.

Vote Date: 3/17/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/15/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Transportation Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11th Dist.

Sen. Bob Duff, 25th Dist.

Sen. Jorge Cabrera, 17th Dist.

Sen. Herron Gaston, 23rd Dist.

Sen. Jan Hochadel, 13th Dist.

Sen. Ceci Maher, 26th Dist.

Sen. James J. Maroney, 14th Dist.

Sen. Patricia Billie Miller, 27th Dist.

Sen. Marilyn V. Moore, 22nd Dist.

Sen. Gary A. Winfield, 10th Dist.

Rep. Anthony L. Nolan, 39th Dist.

Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, 136th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To impose a penalty for violations of the ban on commercial motor vehicles operating on parkways in this state. Previous penalties have been found to be an insufficient deterrent to these vehicles operating on roads which they have been deemed unsafe to operate on. This is not only posing potential damage to state infrastructure, but other individuals as well.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Senator Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader:

Senator Duff begins his testimony by stating that “Anyone who has driven on the Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways know that those roads were not built for trucks. Constructed before World War II, these roads aren't even meant to handle the amount of car traffic that they currently experience”. Sen. Duff then goes into further detail, noting how some of these trucks strike these overpasses causing damage to themselves, the overpass, and delays for commuters. Sen. Duff, then notes how the current fine of 100\$ is no deterrent, and more must be done to protect the infrastructure of the state. He then asks the committee to add an additional fine to the trucking companies themselves as truckers are encouraged by their companies to get to their destinations as quickly as possible. Sen. Duff asks that companies be given a 500\$ fine for the first offense and a 1,000\$ fine for every following offense. He then concludes his testimony by thanking members of the committee for their time and saying that he looks forward to working together as the bill moves forward.

Commissioner Antonio ‘Tony’ Guerrero, Department of Motor Vehicles:

Commissioner Guerrero states that while he does recognize the issue at hand, statutes were updated in 2022 with much more stringent penalties and that this bill may be an opportunity to address this problem through education of the problem itself, rather than how the bill currently goes about it.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ganesh, Aryal
Thapa, Magar

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Heidenis, Chad

Reported by: Thomas Togneri

Date: 3/27/23