
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 293

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to hire a consultant to do a waste characterization and needs assessment. DEEP must submit a report to the Environment Committee when the characterization and assessment is complete about its results, which must include a description of any changes since the most recent previous study for the same purpose. (DEEP published its most recent waste characterization study in 2016.) For this study, the bill requires DEEP to use any funds the legislature makes available for it, such as from federal ARPA funds.

The bill also increases, to 100,000 pounds, the gross vehicle weight limit for vehicles (or combination vehicles) hauling solid waste, including recyclables, as long as federal law allows it.

Under federal law, states must adhere to federal weight limits on interstate highways but are generally allowed to set their own weight limits on other highways (23 U.S.C. § 127 and 23 C.F.R. § 658.7). Currently, the federal maximum overall gross weight limit is 80,000 pounds unless a lower weight is derived from the federal bridge formula or a higher weight is grandfathered. Unlike some states, Connecticut does not have any grandfathered limits. Thus, the bill appears to increase the weight limit for non-interstate roads.

Existing state law allows bulk milk pickup tankers and trucks hauling agricultural commodities to have this 100,000-pound weight, if federal law allows it. (Federal law specifies that milk is a non-divisible load; states may issue overweight permits to vehicles carrying non-divisible loads allowing them to exceed the weight limits (23 U.S.C. § 127(a)(13))

and 23 C.F.R. § 658.17(h)).)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)