

House of Representatives, March 26, 1998. The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. COCCO, 127th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WEIGH STATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Commissioner of Motor
2 Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in accordance
3 with chapter 54 of the general statutes,
4 establishing the hours of operation for the weigh
5 stations in the state. Such regulations shall
6 include, but not be limited to, a requirement that
7 two weigh stations be open eight hours per day, on
8 a varied schedule throughout the week from Monday
9 at twelve o'clock a.m. through Saturday at twelve
10 o'clock a.m.

11 Sec. 2. On or before January 1, 1999, the
12 Division of State Police, within the Department of
13 Public Safety, in cooperation with the Department
14 of Motor Vehicles, shall report to the joint
15 standing committee of the General Assembly having
16 cognizance of matters relating to transportation,
17 on the participation and involvement in truck
18 safety and truck weight monitoring in relation to
19 a weigh station to be located on the Connecticut
20 and Rhode Island border.

21 TRA COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 23 NAY 0 JF

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER HB 5418

STATE IMPACT	Potential Costs (Transportation Fund), see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Departments of Public Safety and Motor Vehicles

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: There would be additional costs to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) from requiring that at least two weigh stations be open 8 hours per day on a varied schedule from Monday at 12:00 AM through Saturday at 12:00 AM. These additional costs could be absorbed by DPS if a proposed increase to the FY '99 budget is adopted. The revised FY '99 DPS budget includes the addition of 20 positions and about \$1.4 million to the truck weight and traffic units, which is intended to expand the operation of these weigh stations. Currently, there are 28 positions and about \$2.0 million committed to this program. DPS would incur minimal, absorbable costs in the preparation of the report to the Transportation Committee.

Currently, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is close to meeting the hours of operation stated in the bill. However, due to lack of resources and because school bus safety is a priority with the Department, it is possible that the required hours of operation will not be met during the months of July and August. This is when school bus safety inspections place their greatest demands on the Department, in preparation for the new school year. Promulgation of regulations can be handled within available resources.

Please note that costs for the construction of a new weigh station would be borne by the Department of Transportation (DOT) through its bonding program.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 5418

AN ACT CONCERNING WEIGH STATIONS

SUMMARY: This bill requires the motor vehicles commissioner to adopt regulations establishing operating hours for the state's commercial vehicle weigh stations. The regulations must include a requirement that two weigh stations be open eight hours per day on a varied schedule from Monday at 12:00 a.m. through Saturday at 12:00 a.m. The bill also requires the State Police, in cooperation with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to report to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 1999 on the participation and involvement in truck weight and safety monitoring with respect to a weigh station to be located on the border between Connecticut and Rhode Island.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

BACKGROUND

Commercial Vehicle Weight and Safety Inspection Programs

Connecticut has fixed locations for weighing and inspecting commercial motor vehicles on I-95 northbound in Greenwich, I-84 eastbound in Danbury, I-91 northbound in Middletown, I-84 westbound in Union, and adjacent to I-95 in Waterford.

The State Police commercial vehicle inspection squads perform vehicle weight and safety inspections at these facilities using fixed scales and also perform similar inspections at various other locations, sometimes in conjunction with these fixed facilities, using portable scales. The DMV performs safety inspections, but not vehicle weighing, under the federally supported Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP). While both the State Police and MCSAP inspectors enforce federal

motor carrier safety standards, the inspection procedures differ slightly. Both inspection programs can declare vehicles "out-of-service" for certain types of violations. The two programs also differ somewhat in that State Police enforce compliance through issuing citations while the MCSAP program is predominantly, though not exclusively, oriented to achieving carrier compliance through follow-up auditing to assure that required repairs have been performed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 23 Nay 0