



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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September 21, 2005

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 45: Operation of Three-Vehicle Combinations on Highways

Senate Bill 45 was introduced on February 2, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation. On April 21, 2005, that Committee recommended the bill for passage on a vote of 5 to 0. On April 28, 2005, the bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.

SUMMARY OF BILL

Under current law, the Department of Transportation issues annual or consecutive month permits for the movement of qualifying three-vehicle combinations (one towing vehicle and two towed vehicles). Among the requirements for receiving a permit is that the total length of the three-vehicle combination not exceed 60 feet.

Senate Bill 45 would increase the total allowable length of a three-vehicle combination from not more than 60 feet to not more than 65 feet, if the second vehicle in the three-vehicle combination is equipped with adequate brakes. This provision would first apply to three-vehicle combinations operated on the effective date of the bill.

FISCAL EFFECT

In its fiscal estimate on the bill, DOT estimates that the changes under SB 45 would increase the number of permits issued on an annual basis by 500. The Department indicates that the cost of the additional workload associated with this increase could be absorbed within the budget for the Division of Motor Vehicles. The Department also estimates that the additional permits would generate \$16,500 in transportation fund revenue on an annual basis.

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