

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 4 - 0 - 1 |
| Yeas: | Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Metsger |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | Starr |
| Prepared By: | Janet Adkins, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 5/24 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Decreases registration fees for motor homes under 14 feet long from \$126 to \$54. Increases length of motor home up to 14 feet as threshold for registration fee of \$126. Increases penalty from a Class D to Class A traffic violation for truck drivers who violate provisions of size and weight variance permits. Creates a Class C traffic offense of failure to remove a vehicle from a highway after an accident. Applies if the driver has not suffered any apparent personal injury, the vehicle is operable and does not require towing, and it is safe to drive to a designated parking area or shoulder.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unequal treatment of vans under vehicle registration statutes
- Revenue loss to Parks and Recreation Department
- Cost of pilot cars more than penalty for violating truck length permit provisions
- Importance of removing vehicles after “fender benders”

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Creates a Class C traffic offense of failure to remove a motor vehicle from a highway.

BACKGROUND: Motor home fees: Under current law, motor homes 10 feet or less in length pay registration fees of \$54. Those over 10 feet pay \$126 plus \$7.50 for each foot over 10 feet. Some vans that may serve as motor homes are being registered as passenger vehicles, while vans of identical size are registered as motor homes. The Department of Transportation does not inspect vans for a distinction between those used solely as passenger vans and those that are capable of being used as motor homes. House Bill 2936-B reduces the registration fees for motor homes up to 14 feet in length to \$54.

Truck permit violations: Pilot cars are necessary to guide trucks operating with certain size and weight variance permit. At current violation levels, it is less expensive for truck owners to pay a Class D traffic violation for violating provisions of their size and weight permit rather than to pay for proper pilot car guidance. HB 2936-A increases the permit violation penalty from a Class D traffic violation (penalty up to \$90) to a Class A traffic violation (penalty up to \$720), thereby making it less costly to hire pilot cars than to pay the penalty.

Minor accidents: Minor accidents that block one or more travel lanes in high traffic areas can cause traffic to back up very quickly and it may take hours to clear. Such blockages can also create very hazardous situations. Many times after an accident, drivers safely move their vehicles to the shoulder or into an on or off-street parking spot. There they can more safely assess damage, wait for law enforcement or other help, or exchange information with the other driver if another vehicle was involved.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.