

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 1 - 1

Yeas: Atkinson, Prozanski, Avakian

Nays: Beyer

Exc.: Bates

Prepared By: Sue Marshall, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases the maximum permissible license fees for certain weighing or measuring instruments and devices. Applies to fees established for licensing periods beginning on or after July 1, 2011 and before July 1, 2016. Declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether General Fund moneys should support this program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Provides for an annual two-percent increase beginning on or after July 1, 2011 and before July 1, 2016. Increases the maximum fees by two percent annually above those increases originally proposed. Sets an operative date for the new maximum cap of January 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Agriculture has the authority to impose fees to pay for their cost to inspect commercial weighing devices. The accuracy of these devices assures equity in trade and protection of consumers in commercial and industrial transactions. This program is predominately supported by fees assessed to industry and business. The fees for this program were last increased in 1992.

Senate Bill 238-A provides additional differentiation between the various weighing devices based on analysis of the effort expended by the department to inspect the devices. The department's objective is to more equitably assign fees based on the effort that is expended by the department. Senate Bill 238-A incrementally increases fee set for some of the weighing instruments and devices.