

HB 2568 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Thomsen

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 05/15/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies, for purposes of exempting certain vehicles from overall allowable length of vehicles under Vehicle Code, that unplanned disruption in services provided by a public utility, telecommunications utility, people's utility district, municipality or electric cooperative is considered an emergency if the disruption occurs outside of normal business hours during which the utility, district or cooperative may acquire a variance permit. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current statute only applies in situations where Governor declares emergency
- Applies to telecommunications outages
- Effect of amendment
- Utility poles much longer now than when statute was originally enacted

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds municipalities to list of entities to which emergency exemption applies.

BACKGROUND:

Current law allows a public utility, telecommunications utility, people's utility district or cooperative rural electrification district to exceed the maximum allowable vehicle length in the event of an emergency when necessary to replace power or utility poles that may exceed the maximum allowable length. However, statute is not clear as to exactly what constitutes an emergency. House Bill 2568-B clarifies that an emergency exists when there is a disruption of services at a time when it would not be possible for the utility to acquire a variance permit.