

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 21, 2010
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 2245
AUTHOR: J. Hill

BILL SUMMARY: Vehicles: Aftermarket Horns: Decibel Levels

This bill prohibits motor vehicles from being equipped with aftermarket horns that emit a sound greater than 110 dB(A).

FISCAL SUMMARY

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state from this bill. While the state is required to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state, exceptions are made in certain circumstances.

Under Section 6(b) of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, any costs to a unit of local government which result from legislation defining a new crime or changing an existing definition of a crime are not reimbursable by the state. Therefore, any local government costs resulting from the mandate in this measure would not be state-reimbursable, because the mandate only involves the definition of a crime or the penalty for conviction of a crime.

The California Highway Patrol does not anticipate any costs associated with this bill.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is Neutral on this bill because it is not anticipated to result in costs to the state. Existing law requires motor vehicles to be equipped with a horn capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, but not be unreasonably loud or harsh. This bill specifies that the decibel levels on aftermarket horns may not exceed a level of 110 dB(A).

This bill was prompted by complaints of excessive noise caused by locomotive horns in San Mateo County. A study indicates that while the locomotives have horns that operate within legally prescribed decibel levels, some vehicles have after-market horns that do not. These horns, which can be purchased and attached to any vehicle, can produce decibel levels that meet and possibly exceed the threshold set for locomotives. This bill will not prohibit the sale or operation of after-market horns as long as they operate within specified decibel levels.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code		
		(Dollars in Thousands)								
	LA	CO	PROP	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	
	RV	98								
2720/CHP	SO	No			-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0044
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF									

Analyst/Principal (0741) C. McKinney	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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