

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/27/2012
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: National Hot Rod Association, Western Motorsports, Pro. Racers Owners Org. Inc.

BILL NUMBER: SB 1174
AUTHOR: Walters, Mimi

BILL SUMMARY: Vehicles: length limitations: motorsports.

This bill would, until January 1, 2016, permit the use of semitrailers of up to 56 feet that are primarily used for motorsport transportation.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) estimates costs of up to \$1.5 million, primarily associated with conducting field testing. The Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP) indicates that the cost is minor and absorbable to consult with CalTrans.

COMMENTS

Finance is opposed to this bill because it would create costs of up to \$1.5 million to field test 15 locations for the 56-foot long semitrailers. Although it would allow racing teams that already have these longer trailers to participate in events in California, the benefit of economic activity resulting from tourism related to auto racing is unknown.

ANALYSIS

1. Programmatic Analysis

Existing federal law:

- Limits the length of semitrailers to 53 feet.

Existing state law:

- Limits the length of a vehicle to 40 feet.
- Limits the length of semitrailers to 53 feet that are operated on roadways that are part of the national highway system.
- Limits the length of semitrailers with two or more axles to 40 feet from the kingpin and semitrailers with one axle to 38 feet from the kingpin on roadways that are not part of the national highway system.
- Authorizes CalTrans to issue a special permit for the use of motorsport vehicle combinations that are 53 feet long, provided the kingpin to rear axle is not more than 46 feet.

Analyst/Principal P. Abahazi	Date	Program Budget Manager Kristin Shelton	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

Walters, Mimi

06/27/2012

SB 1174

ANALYSIS (continued)**This bill would:**

- Authorize a tractor semitrailer combination with a kingpin to rearmost axle of not more than 46 feet and a trailer length of not more than 56 feet that is used for motorsport to operate on authorized routes.
- Require CalTrans to conduct a field test for motorsport trucks with a trailer length of 56 feet to evaluate their performance on various segments of the national highway system and transition routes.
- Require CalTrans, in consultation with the CHP, to submit a report to the Legislature that includes the results of the field test and a recommendation as to whether the 56 foot trailer length should be reauthorized.
- Delete the authority for CalTrans or local authorities to issue a special permit for the operation of vehicles consisting of a truck tractor semitrailer combination with a kingpin to rearmost axle measurement limit of not more than 46 feet that are used for motorsport.

Discussion: Prior to 2005, the CHP did not actively enforce the 53 foot limit on trailers used by racing teams. Since 2005, the CHP has ticketed and towed these over-length trailers. Since racing teams are able to use the longer trailers in other states, the industry indicates it may discontinue racing events in California. Although the CHP staff indicate they do not have safety concerns with this limited exception, they will continue to enforce the 53 foot length restriction unless an exemption is provided.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO	PROP						
	RV	98	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	FC	2014-2015
2660/Caltrans	SO	No	A	--	A	1,500	A	-- 0042
2720/CHP	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----		0044
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>							
0042	Highway Account, State, STF							
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF							