

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 880

PRINTER NO. 1431

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

September 7, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Langerholc

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 880 amends Chapter 49 (relating to size, weight and load) of Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to increase the standard truck-trailer width for all trucks from 96 inches to 102 inches and makes additional changes with respect to the size of motor vehicles. Senate Bill 880 also amends Chapter 61 (relating to powers of the department and local authorities) with regard to engineering and traffic investigation requirements as they apply to local authorities in certain instances.

The legislation amends section 4908 of the Vehicle Code (relating to operation of certain combinations in interstate and certain other highways) to delete a reference to section 4923(b) (6) and (7), which was repealed by a previous amendment to the statute. Section 4908 is also amended to delete the rule in place for single trailers that exceed the length limitation for combination trailers, but it maintains existing requirements for two-trailer combinations insofar as the requirements relate to household goods carriers.

Section 4908(b.1), which provides for short trailers of 102 inches in width is repealed because the general rule regarding the width of vehicles is being standardized at 102 inches elsewhere in the legislation. Section 4908(g) (relating to penalty) is amended so that the penalty provisions are made consistent with the amended provisions regarding combinations and width of vehicles.

Senate Bill 880 repeals section 4908.1 (relating to operation of motor homes on interstate and certain other highways) so that the provisions regarding the operation of a motor home between 40 and 45 feet in length are consistent with the requirements regarding length of vehicles prescribed in section 4923(a)(2)(ii).

The legislation amends section 4921 of the Vehicle Code (relating to width of vehicles) to increase the total outside width of a vehicle, including any load, from eight feet (96 inches) to eight feet six inches (102 inches). Because the general rule relating to the width of vehicles is being increased to 102 inches, existing exceptions that allow certain types of vehicles to currently operate at a width of 102 inches are being removed in section 4921. The legislation also excludes devices listed in federal regulations from being considered in the measurement of the width of a motor vehicle. Examples of such devices include corner caps, placards, side marker lamps, and tarping systems for open-top trailers.

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Senate Bill 880 amends section 4923 (relating to length of vehicles) by adding subsection (b) to include similar language regarding excluded devices listed in federal regulations from being considered in the measurement of the length of a motor vehicle. Examples of such devices include aerodynamic devices, air deflectors, refrigeration units, heaters, and tire carriers.

The legislation amends section 4923(b.1) to clarify existing law which requires that the length of a truck or truck tractor shall not exceed 53 feet. Furthermore, clarifying language is added such that truck or truck tractors towing trailers equipped with a kingpin shall not be operated when the distance between the kingpin and the center line of the rear axle or rear axle group exceeds 41 feet or, in the case of a trailer used exclusively or primarily to transport vehicles in connection with motor sports competition events, does not exceed 46 feet.

Senate Bill 880 amends section 6109(e) of the Vehicle Code with regard to engineering and traffic investigation requirements so that local authorities may restrict the operation of vehicles under the federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) of 1982 beyond the access limitations prescribed under federal regulations relating to reasonable access (i.e. access from the national network to terminals and facilities for food, fuel, rest and repair) without requiring an engineering and traffic investigation.

The provisions of the act related to the width and length of motor vehicles shall take effect in 180 days. The provision of the act affecting the specific powers of the department and local authorities with regard to engineering and traffic investigation requirements shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 880 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or local funds.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), PennDOT would be required to conduct safety evaluations and provide signage for approximately 22,000 miles of state-owned roads that are currently restricted from STAA vehicles, at an aggregate cost of approximately \$6 million. Assuming that existing PennDOT engineers and staff conducted the safety evaluations, any costs related to fulfilling those duties would be capable of being accommodated within the agency's current workload and budget.

The cost of erecting any signage would be dependent upon the number of signs that may be required. The estimated cost of each sign is \$100 or less.