

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1102
By: Creighton
Transportation
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Interested parties note that vehicles powered by natural gas typically weigh more due to heavier fuel tanks and fuel, causing certain heavy duty natural gas vehicles to be unable to carry a full trailer load without exceeding applicable vehicle weight limitations. S.B. 1102 seeks to address this issue by revising vehicle weight limitations for such vehicles.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

S.B. 1102 amends the Transportation Code to authorize a vehicle or combination of vehicles that is powered by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas to exceed certain vehicle weight limitations by an amount that is equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. The bill caps the maximum gross weight of such a vehicle or combination of vehicles at 82,000 pounds.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2017.