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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 6604 (Substitute H-1 as passed by the House)

Sponsor: Representative Jeff Mayes

House Committee: Agriculture

Senate Committee: Transportation

Date Completed: 12-2-08

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Weights and Measures Act to require the gross weight of a vehicle to be determined by weighing the vehicle in a single measurement and not by adding the results of multiple measurements taken at opposite ends of the vehicle.

That requirement would apply notwithstanding any requirements adopted under Section 28c of the Act, which requires the sale of a commodity to conform to the "uniform regulation for the method of sale of commodities" published in the 2002 edition of the National Institute of Standards and Technology handbook 130.

The gross weight of a combination of a truck tractor with multiple trailers would have to be determined by weighing the coupled tractor and trailers in a single measurement and as follows:

- The brakes on the tractor and trailers would have to be released.
- There could be no tension on the draw bar.
- The approaches to the scale would have to be straight and on the same level as the scale.
- The approaches to the scale would have to be of sufficient width and length to ensure level positioning of the coupled vehicles during weighing.

A scale used to weigh vehicles under those provisions would have to be tested annually by weighing a coupled tractor with multiple trailers as a single unit and comparing that weight with the combined weight of each vehicle weighed separately. If the weights determined by that method varied by more than 0.2%, the scale could not be used to determine the gross weight of vehicles while coupled until the scale was corrected to measure properly within that range.

If a scale could not be used to weigh vehicles while they were coupled, the vehicles would have to be weighed individually and the weights totaled to obtain the gross weight of the vehicle combination.

The bill would not apply to the enforcement of vehicle weight under the Michigan Vehicle Code.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the State. Potential costs would depend upon any changes or adjustments needed to the scales used to weigh vehicles and the testing of the scales.

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