

## MINUTES

### HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON

#### Transportation

**DATE: October 3, 2017**

Chairman Hernandez called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon. Representatives Hernandez, Yaroch, Victory, Canfield, VanSingle, Cochran, and Peterson were present.

Representative Yaroch moved to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting. The motion was adopted by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee heard testimony from Scott Greene, Section Manager, Michigan Department of Transportation, Utility Coordination, Permits, and Agreements. Mr. Greene gave a presentation on Michigan's vehicle size/weight/load limits. Mr. Greene was joined by MDOT Governmental Affairs Director, Phil Browne. Copies of the department's PowerPoint presentation, along with a White Paper, **MICHIGAN'S TRUCK-WEIGHT LAW And TRUCK-USER FEES** are included with the official subcommittee minutes maintained by the House Fiscal Agency.

Representative Yaroch asked if there was research supporting Michigan's axle-based weight regulation as opposed to the standards used by other states.

Representative Van Single asked whether Michigan vehicles in excess of 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight could operate in neighboring states.

The subcommittee heard testimony from Inspector Randy Coplin, Assistant Commander, Michigan State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. Inspector Coplin testified that the Michigan State Police, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division was fielded approximately 125 to 130 uniformed officers in the field – most of whom participated in mobile enforcements, others assigned to the 15 weigh stations located primarily at Michigan points of entry with other states. The division is responsible for preparing Michigan's Size/Weight Plan and Size/Weight Certification as required by federal law.

He noted that in FY 2016-17, the division screened approximately 2.5 million vehicles through the use of weigh-in-motion devices installed at selection locations. From the initial screening, an additional 10,600 were subject to additional enforcement action: 3,300 weighed on portable scales; 7,300 weighed on static weigh station scales. Of the 10,600 vehicles subject to additional weighing, approximately 48% were cited for non-compliance with Michigan size/weight laws.

In response to a question from Representative Canfield, Inspector Coplin discussed advances in enforcement technology – beyond traditional weigh station technology. He also noted that weigh stations were upgraded in the last few years. He discussed strategic use of weigh stations at Michigan's borders with other states.

Representative Cochran asked about trucks using alternative routes to evade -pass enforcement.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Andrew Vermeesch, representing Michigan Farm Bureau, in support of Michigan's current size/weight laws.

Chair Hernandez adjourned the subcommittee, without objection, the time being 1:00 p.m.