

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 537**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Williams**

February 16, 2011

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An act to add Section 35670 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 537, as amended, Williams. Vehicles: commercial vehicles: weight restriction: State Route 154.

(1) Existing law authorizes the Department of Transportation to declare and fix a weight limit for a highway under its jurisdiction that is less than the maximum weight limits otherwise authorized under the Vehicle Code, upon determining that the highway will not sustain those maximum weights and, after conducting a public hearing on the issue, determining the maximum weight that the highway will sustain. The department is prohibited from establishing a maximum weight limit that is less than 16,000 pounds. A violation of the Vehicle Code is a crime.

This bill would prohibit, with specified exemptions, the operation of a commercial vehicle with 3 or more axles, or a gross vehicle weight or a combined gross weight of 9,000 pounds or more on the segment of State Route 154 (SR-154) that is located between the State Route 101 and SR-154 intersection in the City of Santa Barbara and SR-154 and State Route 246 intersection in the County of Santa Barbara. The bill would provide that, upon conviction, a violation of the above prohibition is subject to a fine based on the weight of the vehicle or \$1,000, whichever is greater. Because the bill would create a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would

require the department to erect suitable signs to give adequate notice of the prohibition.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 35670 is added to the Vehicle Code, to  
2 read:

3 35670. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a person  
4 shall not drive a commercial vehicle with three or more axles, or  
5 a gross vehicle weight or a combined gross weight of 9,000 pounds  
6 or more, on the segment of State Route 154 (SR-154) that is located  
7 between the State Route 101 and SR-154 intersection in the City  
8 of Santa Barbara and SR-154 and State Route 246 intersection in  
9 the County of Santa Barbara.

10 (b) Subdivision (a) does not apply to any of the following  
11 vehicles:

- 12 (1) An authorized emergency vehicle.
- 13 (2) A vehicle operated by a publicly or privately owned public  
14 utility.
- 15 (3) A vehicle operated by a government agency.
- 16 (4) A transit bus servicing facilities accessible only from that  
17 portion of SR-154 specified in subdivision (a).
- 18 (5) A tow truck providing assistance to a vehicle that is  
19 accessible only from that portion of SR-154 specified in  
20 subdivision (a).

21 (6) A commercial vehicle making deliveries to or from, or  
22 servicing, property that is either of the following:

- 23 ~~(A) Located within the city limits of the City of Santa Barbara.~~
- 24 ~~(B) Is accessible only from the portion of SR-154 specified in~~  
25 ~~subdivision (a).~~ *servicing, property that is accessible only from*  
26 *the portion of SR-154 specified in subdivision (a).*

27 (7) A commercial vehicle involved in a motion picture,  
28 commercial, or television production conducting motion picture,

1 commercial, or television production activities in areas that are  
2 accessible only from that portion of SR-154 specified in  
3 subdivision (a).

4 (c) A person who violates this section shall, upon conviction,  
5 be punished by a fine pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 42030  
6 or one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whichever is greater.

7 (d) The Department of Transportation shall erect suitable signs  
8 at each end of the portion of SR-154 specified in subdivision (a)  
9 and any other points that the department deems necessary to give  
10 adequate notice of the prohibition pursuant to this section.

11 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
12 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
13 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
14 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
15 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
16 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
17 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
18 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
19 Constitution.