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SENATE BILL NO. 14—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)

PREFILED DECEMBER 19, 2012

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing highways under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation. (BDR 43-362)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to transportation; authorizing the Director of the Department of Transportation to reduce the maximum weight limits on certain highways under certain circumstances; revising the provisions that require the Department to consider certain factors and to receive approval from the Board of Directors of the Department before reducing the maximum weight limits on certain highways; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 Existing law authorizes the Director of the Department of Transportation to  
2 restrict the use of, or close, a highway under certain circumstances, including when  
3 the Director considers the closing or restriction of use necessary for the protection of  
4 the public. (NRS 408.210) Existing law also requires the Department to consider  
5 certain factors and receive approval from the Board of Directors of the Department  
6 before reducing the maximum weight limits for vehicles on a highway under its  
7 jurisdiction. (NRS 484D.655) This bill limits the scope of that requirement by making  
8 it applicable only to a highway or a portion of a highway which is designated as a  
9 scenic route. Further, this bill authorizes the Director to reduce the maximum weight  
10 limits for vehicles on a highway under the jurisdiction of the Department without  
11 regard to the considerations and approval required under existing law if the Director  
12 considers that restriction of use necessary for the protection of the public. The  
13 Director is also authorized, under certain circumstances, to reduce the maximum  
14 weight limits for vehicles on a bridge located on such a highway without regard to the  
15 considerations and approval required under existing law.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1       **Section 1.** NRS 484D.655 is hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:

3       484D.655 *1. The Director of the Department of*  
4 *Transportation may, pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of*  
5 *NRS 408.210, reduce the maximum weight limits as prescribed in*  
6 *NRS 484D.635, 484D.640 and 484D.645 on a highway under the*  
7 *jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation, including,*  
8 *without limitation, a bridge located on the highway.*

9       **2.** Except as otherwise provided in *subsection 1 and*  
10 NRS 484D.660, before the Department of Transportation reduces  
11 the maximum weight limits as prescribed in NRS 484D.635,  
12 484D.640 and 484D.645 on a highway *or a portion of a highway*  
13 under its jurisdiction ~~†~~ *which is designated as a scenic route*  
14 *pursuant to NRS 408.213,* the Department of Transportation shall:

15       ~~††~~ (a) Consider:

16       ~~†(a)~~ (1) The average number of vehicles traveling on the  
17 highway each day;

18       ~~†(b)~~ (2) The number of vehicles that have a declared gross  
19 weight in excess of 26,000 pounds that are included in the average  
20 number pursuant to ~~†paragraph (a);~~

21       ~~—(c)~~ *subparagraph (1);*

22       (3) The availability of alternate routes to the highway;

23       ~~†(d)~~ (4) The impact on each alternate route of increased traffic  
24 consisting of vehicles that have a declared gross weight in excess of  
25 26,000 pounds;

26       ~~†(e)~~ (5) The number of traffic accidents involving a vehicle that  
27 has a declared gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds on the  
28 highway in the past 5 years;

29       ~~†(f)~~ (6) Any projected adverse economic or environmental  
30 impact resulting from reducing the maximum weight limits on the  
31 highway; and

32       ~~†(g)~~ (7) Any other factors the Department of Transportation  
33 deems appropriate; and

34       ~~†2~~ (b) Present such considerations to the Board of Directors of  
35 the Department of Transportation to receive the Board's approval to  
36 reduce the maximum weight limits pursuant to this section.

37       **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

