

- SUBJECT:** Weight of vehicles transporting recyclable materials
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Alexander, Bosse, Alonzo, Clemons, Edwards, Moreno, Siebert
0 nays
2 absent — Price, Uher
- WITNESSES:** For — Edwin O. Fulton, Fulton Supply and Recycling
Against — None
On — Mignon McGarry, The Recycling Council of Texas
- BACKGROUND:** VACS art. 6701d-19a, regulating the weight of vehicles transporting solid waste, permits vehicles transporting solid wastes to operate under vehicle weight limits greater than those applicable to other commercial vehicles, including those transporting recyclable materials. Recyclable materials are those removed or diverted from the solid waste stream for recycling.
- DIGEST:** HB 2584 would permit vehicles transporting only recyclable materials to operate under the same weight limits and bonding requirements as vehicles transporting solid wastes.
- Certain vehicles exclusively transporting recyclable materials could have a single axle gross load up to 21,000 pounds, a tandem-axle gross load up to 44,000 pounds and a total vehicle gross load up to 64,000 pounds. Except for city-owned vehicles, a surety bond would have to be filed with the Texas Department of Transportation for any vehicle with a tandem axle gross weight in excess of 34,000 pounds, to pay for any damages done to highways or to city streets.
- The bill specifically would not authorize vehicles to operate on the national highway system in excess of the weight limits prescribed by the federal government (20,000 pounds for a single axle; 34,000 pounds for a tandem axle and 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.)

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Violations of the provisions would be punishable by a fine of up to \$200 for the first conviction; a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or both, for a second conviction within one year of the first conviction; and a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both, for a third or subsequent conviction.

HB 2584 would take effect September 1, 1995.