

- SUBJECT:** Increasing the fine for overweight trucks in municipal jurisdictions
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Pickett, Martinez, Burkett, Y. Davis, Fletcher, Harless, Israel, McClendon, Murr, Paddie, Phillips, Simmons
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Wes Bement, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance & Grand Prairie PD
- Against — None
- On — Omar Villarreal, Texas Department of Public Safety; (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Barton, James Bass, Bill Hale, and Joe Weber, Texas Department of Transportation; Victor Vandergriff, Texas Transportation Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code, sec. 623.011 allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue permits for overweight trucks. Sec. 623.019 establishes fines for registered vehicles that have violated parameters of their permits.
- Any offense under sec. 623.019 can be prosecuted in a justice of the peace court and can carry a fine of up to \$10,000. A municipal court has jurisdiction over offenses that carry a maximum fine of \$500. For this reason, some operators of overweight vehicles prefer to travel through municipal jurisdictions, which has introduced safety and enforcement concerns in these communities.
- DIGEST:** HB 1230 would give municipal courts jurisdiction over any offense under Transportation Code, sec. 623.019, regardless of the fine attached to it.
- This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2015.