



SENATE BILL 572: Agricultural Regulatory Relief

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources	Date:	April 22, 2015
Introduced by:	Sen. Cook	Prepared by:	Jennifer Mundt
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S572-CSTA-4		Committee Staff

SUMMARY: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for Senate Bill 572 would direct the Departments of Transportation and Environment and Natural Resources to study various issues of concern to the agriculture community.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for Senate Bill 572 would direct the study of the following:

Section 1 would direct the Department of Transportation (DOT) to study:

1. Weight limits that are set by the Board of Transportation for bridges on roads that serve areas of the State with significant agricultural and forestry production. The study must include: impacts due to additional transportation costs required to detour around weight-restricted bridges; a determination of whether those impact is factored into weight limit decisions; and the impacts on safety and transportation infrastructure if accommodations were to be made.
2. The limits and regulatory barriers on the transportation of fuel for use in agricultural or forestry activities, with particular attention to roads and routing in order to comply with vehicle weight limits.

DOT must report its findings and recommendations, including legislative proposals to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission (Committee) no later than February 1, 2016.

Section 2 would direct the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to study the regulatory barriers farmers face in the coastal counties from diminished drainage from farmland due to increases in coastal sound levels. In its report, DENR must include recommendations for economically viable and environmentally sound methods for sufficient drainage of coastal agricultural lands impacted by declines in drainage from the coastal sounds.

DENR must report its findings and recommendations, including legislative proposals to the Environmental Review Commission and the Commission no later than February 1, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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