HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 722 DATE: March 10, 2004

Version: Second Engrossment

Authors: Erhardt and others

Subject: Seasonal weight limits for garbage and recycling trucks

Analyst: John Williams, 651-296-5045

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Provides that until July 1, 2005, seasonal weight limits for trucks do not apply to garbage trucks that collect municipal mixed solid waste if they do not exceed 7 tons per axle. After that date these vehicles would go back to being subject to spring weight restrictions.

Amends the existing law that allows two-axle recycling vehicles engaged in locally-mandated curbside pickup to carry up to 10 tons per axle during spring weight restrictions, by (1) eliminating the requirement that they be two-axle vehicles, and (2) reducing their maximum legal axle load to 7 tons until July 1, 2005. After that date the maximum legal axle load for these vehicles during spring weight restrictions would revert to 10 tons. The repeal of the two-axle requirement would be permanent.

Provides that violations of spring weight restrictions by either recycling or garbage trucks are not subject to criminal penalties but only to civil fines for overweight.