

File. There are committee amendments pending by the Public Works Committee.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, I assume you are going to take the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments make several important changes in the bill as it was originally introduced. The first amendment makes a transfer of carrier enforcement duties from the Department of Roads to the State Patrol mandatory. As the bill was introduced, the responsibility could have been shifted back and forth from one to the other at the discretion of the Governor. The committee did not feel that this was in the best interest of the Department or the Patrol, therefore, we made it mandatory. The committee amendment also incorporates language stating that the amount of money paid by the Department of Roads to the State Patrol pursuant to the contract for the operation of the carrier enforcement division shall be limited to those funds necessary for carrier enforcement purposes. There have been some indications in time past that we might want to fund the State Patrol operations from highway use funds. The committee chose not to do that. We did not want that to be implied in these amendments and, therefore, we specifically restricted it. Another portion of the committee amendment clarifies the duties of the carrier enforcement officers and that which they may perform. They will have the powers of police officers solely for the purpose of enforcing the laws relating to trip permits to the size, the weight, the load and the registration of motor vehicles. In other words, they may require the driver to show his license and registration. They may inspect the vehicle and the plates. They may make arrests for carrier violations and they do not have the same powers to enforce laws as do other State Patrol officers. Finally, the committee amendment would mandate that a carrier enforcement officer to inform a driver of his or her right to be reweighed on a permanent scale if a weight violation is determined by the use of a portable scale. Those are the committee amendments, Mr. President, and I move for their adoption.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I see no lights to discuss the committee amendments. Is there any discussion on the committee amendments? If not, the question is, shall the committee amendments be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay.