

House Bill 560

Safer Roads for Everyone ... Better Jobs for Truckers

The Problem

While enforcement of coal truck weight limit laws has improved in recent years on major roads, a great many coal trucks never travel these routes. Hundreds of trucks are still running dangerously overweight on the short runs from the coal mines to the processing plants. These are often narrow, rural roads and bridges used by local residents and school buses that were not built for such heavy loads. The Department of Vehicle Enforcement does not have the personnel to consistently monitor these roads.



The Solution: A 24-hour electronic reporting system

Under House Bill 560, the Department of Vehicle Enforcement (DVE) will be responsible for developing an electronic reporting system that will allow them to monitor the weight of every coal truck within twenty-four hours. Here is how the system, similar to what West Virginia is using successfully, will work:



“Overweight coal trucks are literally killing us here in eastern Kentucky,” said Rick Handshoe who sees hundreds of trucks rumble past his Floyd County home every day going from four mines around Hueysville to a processing plant in Knott County. “We call Vehicle Enforcement and they come out, but they can’t sit here 24 hours a day. As soon as the officer is gone they go right back to hauling overweight.”

- ▶ All shippers of coal will report electronically to the DVE within 24 hours the weight of every coal truck that leaves their facility and where the coal is being delivered.
- ▶ All receivers also will be responsible for reporting to the DVE within 24 hours the weights of all coal trucks entering their facility as well as the shipper of the coal.
- ▶ If a truck is reported as being overweight then the DVE will impose a fine only on the shipper if the receiver reports the violation within 24 hours.
- ▶ If a DVE officer pulls over an overweight coal truck the Department shall fine the shipper and may impose a fine on the truck driver.
- ▶ DVE will be allowed to conduct routine inspections to ensure all scales and reporting systems are working properly.

Why this is good for Kentucky and good for Coal Truck Drivers

- ▶ The responsibility to pay overweight fines will finally be on the ones who are loading the trucks and not on the drivers who are trying to make a living.
- ▶ Hauling legal weight limits will mean less wear and tear on the trucks, which will be safer for both truck drivers and others using the roads, and it will mean fewer costly repairs for truck owners.
- ▶ DVE will be able to monitor the weight of every coal truck in the state with a limited number of officers.
- ▶ **It will save lives.** Improved DVE enforcement in the last year resulted in 15 fewer fatal accidents involving coal trucks. House Bill 560 will save even more lives.

Please support House Bill 560