

Marble Floor Marathon, Extra Innings?

First off, by the time that you read this, the Transportation Funding Package will have been dealt with, but I am writing this 5 days before the deadline, which may make this qualify as speculative fiction. 😊

The Transportation Funding Package delivered to the Governor had no weight fee increases for our current weight classification, and looking at this session, I will chalk it up as a win. (Some days not getting further hosed is the only win you get.) The governor has 20 days, not counting Sundays, to take action on legislation or it automatically becomes law. He can sign it, completely veto it, or veto sections. The complete veto is our nightmare. That would require a special session and throw the entire funding package open for negotiations, which would open up the possibility that our weight fees could go up. As long as he does not veto section 108 of [ESSB 5801](#) we are more or less safe.

Our weight fee bill ([SB 5309](#)), being carried by Sen. Cortes (D-18) with Sen. MacEwen (R-35) as second seat, did not clear committee cutoff. If things go well, maybe we can bring it back to life next session in some form or another. If an across the board weight fee increase has gone through, then our weight fee issue will be DOA for a few years. I am already doing outreach to work on getting the weight fee bill resurrected and the language adjusted to reflect the engrossed language in the funding package.

Until next time, ride safely and legislate well.

“Texas” Larry