

SB 153-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-1051

11/08

SENATE BILL ***153-FN***

AN ACT relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways.

SPONSORS: Sen. McConkey, Dist 3; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Rep. Milz, Rock. 13; Rep. R. Brown, Carr. 3; Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill allows 90 days for driveway permit issuance where the driveways for multifamily developments are major traffic generators or major entrances.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Permit Issuance; Major Entrances and Major Traffic Generators. Amend RSA 236:13, IV-a to
2 read as follows:

3 IV-a. For any existing or proposed residential use of land, including multifamily
4 development that is not classified as a major [~~driveway~~] traffic **generator** under the department's
5 policy relating to driveways and access to the state highway system, the department shall issue the
6 permit described in paragraph II within 60 days of receiving a completed application. ***If such***
7 ***existing or proposed residential use of land to include multifamily development is***
8 ***classified as a major traffic generator and/or a major entrance, the department shall issue***
9 ***the permit described in paragraph II within 90 days of receiving a completed application.***

10 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**SB 153-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

| Estimated State Impact | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
| Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| <i>Revenue Fund(s)</i> | None | | | |
| Expenditures* | \$0 | \$629,000 | \$650,000 | \$669,000 |
| <i>Funding Source(s)</i> | Highway Fund | | | |
| Appropriations* | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| <i>Funding Source(s)</i> | None | | | |

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill, assumed to be effective in FY 2026, will require the Department of Transportation to process, review and approve or deny any application for the proposed residential use of land that is classified as a major traffic generator and/or major entrance within 90 days of receiving a completed application. The Department receives approximately 1,500 driveway permit applications statewide per year and approximately 750 applications of those received have a residential component, of which about 100 would be considered residential major drives or major traffic generators. The Department states four (4) additional engineering staff will be required to comply with the requirements of this bill, as well as will require on-call consultant engineers:

- Project Manager Civil Engineer VI - To coordinate with staff screening applications, highway district staff conducting field reviews and issuing minor permits, subject matter experts on traffic engineering, highway design, environmental concerns and utilities, and oversight of a centralized on-line permitting system.
- Civil Engineer V – A subject matter expert on traffic engineering reviewing traffic impact studies, trip generation, signal warrant and turn lane warrant analysis, and recommending highway system mitigation such as additional travel lanes, turn lanes and traffic signals.

- Civil Engineer V - A subject matter expert on highway engineering conducting design plan reviews and coordinating determination of design elements to be incorporated in the plan set, including pavement and structural designs, guardrail and culverts, embankments and stormwater management systems.
- Program Specialist III - To manage the on-line permitting system, monitor application dates and deadlines, communicate with applicants, highway district staff, and other Department staff, develop reporting of performance measures, and otherwise facilitate the permitting process.

The Department has provided the following cost estimates (it should be noted this bill provides neither authorization nor appropriation for new personnel):

| Description | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Program Specialist III | \$96,000 | \$98,000 | \$101,000 |
| Civil Engineer V | \$123,000 | \$129,000 | \$134,000 |
| Civil Engineer V | \$123,000 | \$129,000 | \$134,000 |
| Civil Engineer VI | \$137,000 | \$144,000 | \$150,000 |
| Total Personnel Costs* | \$479,000 | \$500,000 | \$519,000 |
| On-Call Consultant Engineers | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| Total Costs | \$629,000 | \$650,000 | \$669,000 |

* Assumes position start date of July 1, 2025.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Transportation