

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3488

To amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to vehicle weight limitations applicable to the Interstate System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. RIBBLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to vehicle weight limitations applicable to the Interstate System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe, Flexible, and Ef-
5 ficient Trucking Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZED WEIGHT LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN**
7 **VEHICLES.**

8 Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(m) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION TO WEIGHT RE-
2 QUIREMENTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
4 (a), a State may authorize a vehicle with a max-
5 imum gross weight, including all enforcement toler-
6 ances, that exceeds the maximum gross weight oth-
7 erwise applicable under subsection (a) to operate on
8 Interstate System routes in the State, if—

9 “(A) the vehicle is equipped with at least
10 6 axles;

11 “(B) the weight of any single axle on the
12 vehicle does not exceed 20,000 pounds, includ-
13 ing enforcement tolerances;

14 “(C) the weight of any tandem axle on the
15 vehicle does not exceed 34,000 pounds, includ-
16 ing enforcement tolerances;

17 “(D) the weight of any group of 3 or more
18 axles on the vehicle does not exceed 51,000
19 pounds, including enforcement tolerances;

20 “(E) the gross weight of the vehicle does
21 not exceed 91,000 pounds, including enforce-
22 ment tolerances; and

23 “(F) the vehicle complies with the bridge
24 formula in subsection (a)(2) of this section.

25 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

1 “(A) OTHER EXCEPTIONS NOT AF-
2 FECTED.—This subsection shall not restrict—

3 “(i) a vehicle that may operate under
4 any other provision of this section or an-
5 other Federal law; or

6 “(ii) a State’s authority with respect
7 to a vehicle that may operate under any
8 other provision of this section or another
9 Federal law.

10 “(B) MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION.—A
11 State may implement this subsection by any
12 means, including statute or rule of general ap-
13 plicability, by special permit, or otherwise.

14 “(3) ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
16 issue such regulations as are necessary to re-
17 quire a vehicle operating pursuant to this sub-
18 section to include 1 item of additional equip-
19 ment not otherwise required by law. The Sec-
20 retary may issue such regulations only if the
21 equipment item to be required is available at
22 the time a rule is proposed.

23 “(B) COMMENT.—In issuing regulations
24 pursuant to this paragraph, the Secretary shall

1 invite comment on the effective date of any pro-
2 posed equipment requirement.

3 “(C) LIMITED AUTHORITY.—The authority
4 to issue regulations pursuant to this paragraph
5 applies only to a rule that is published as a
6 final rule in the Federal Register not later than
7 the date that is 6 months after the date of en-
8 actment of this subsection.

9 “(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(A) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—If a State,
11 pursuant to paragraph (1), authorizes vehicles
12 described in such paragraph to operate on
13 Interstate System routes in the State, the State
14 shall submit to the Secretary a triennial report
15 containing—

16 “(i) an identification of highway
17 routes in the State, including routes not on
18 the Interstate System, on which the State
19 so authorizes such vehicles to operate;

20 “(ii) a description of any gross vehicle
21 weight limit applicable to such vehicles so
22 authorized and of any operating require-
23 ments applicable to such vehicles that are
24 in addition to requirements applicable to
25 all commercial motor vehicles;

1 “(iii) the number of crashes that oc-
2 curred in the State involving such vehicles
3 so authorized on the Interstate System, the
4 number of such crashes involving fatalities,
5 and the number of such crashes involving
6 non-fatal injuries;

7 “(iv) estimated vehicle miles traveled
8 on the Interstate System in the State by
9 such vehicles so authorized; and

10 “(v) other information, such as the
11 gross vehicle weight of a vehicle operating
12 pursuant to the authority of this sub-
13 section at the time of a crash, as the Sec-
14 retary and the State jointly determine nec-
15 essary.

16 “(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-
17 retary shall make all information required
18 under subparagraph (A) available to the public.

19 “(5) TERMINATION AS TO ROUTE SEGMENT.—
20 The Secretary may terminate the operation of vehi-
21 cles authorized by a State under this subsection on
22 a specific Interstate System route segment if, after
23 the effective date of a decision of a State to allow
24 vehicles to operate pursuant to paragraph (1), the
25 Secretary determines that such operation poses an

1 unreasonable safety risk based on an engineering
2 analysis of the route segment or an analysis of safe-
3 ty or other applicable data from the route segment.

4 “(6) WAIVER OF HIGHWAY FUNDING REDUC-
5 TION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the total
6 amount of funds apportioned to a State under sec-
7 tion 104(b)(1) for any period may not be reduced
8 under subsection (a) if the State authorizes a vehicle
9 described in paragraph (1) to operate on the Inter-
10 state System in the State in accordance with this
11 subsection.

12 “(7) PRESERVING STATE AND LOCAL AUTHOR-
13 ITY REGARDING NON-INTERSTATE SYSTEM HIGH-
14 WAYS.—Subsection (b) of this section shall not apply
15 to motor vehicles operating on the Interstate System
16 solely under the authority provided by this sub-
17 section.”.

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