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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

Mr. RIBBLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZED WEIGHT LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN**
2 **VEHICLES.**

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

5 “(m) **ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION TO WEIGHT RE-**
6 **QUIREMENTS.—**

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

13 “(A) the vehicle is equipped with at least
14 6 axles;

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

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

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

24 “(E) the gross weight of the vehicle does
25 not exceed 91,000 pounds, including enforce-
26 ment tolerances; and

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

3 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

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

6 “(i) a vehicle that may operate under
7 any other provision of this section or an-
8 other Federal law; or

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

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

17 “(3) ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.—

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

1 “(B) COMMENT.—In issuing regulations
2 pursuant to this paragraph, the Secretary shall
3 invite comment on the effective date of any pro-
4 posed equipment requirement.

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

11 “(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

22 “(ii) a description of any gross vehicle
23 weight limit applicable to such vehicles so
24 authorized and of any operating require-
25 ments applicable to such vehicles that are

1 in addition to requirements applicable to
2 all commercial motor vehicles;

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

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

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

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

21 “(5) TERMINATION AS TO ROUTE SEGMENT.—
22 The Secretary may terminate the operation of vehi-
23 cles authorized by a State under this subsection on
24 a specific Interstate System route segment if, after
25 the effective date of a decision of a State to allow

1 vehicles to operate pursuant to paragraph (1), the
2 Secretary determines that such operation poses an
3 unreasonable safety risk based on an engineering
4 analysis of the route segment or an analysis of safe-
5 ty or other applicable data from the route segment.

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

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