

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 612

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

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. WALZ, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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 and Efficient
5 Transportation Act of 2013”.

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 “(j) **ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION TO WEIGHT REQUIRE-**
6 **MENTS.—**

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 the 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; and

24 “(E) the gross weight of the vehicle does
25 not exceed 97,000 pounds, including enforce-
26 ment tolerances.

1 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

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

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

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

11 “(B) INCREASE IN AXLE WEIGHT RE-
12 QUIREMENT.—A State may authorize a vehicle
13 to exceed the maximum axle weight require-
14 ments under any one axle grouping in subpara-
15 graph (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (1) by not
16 more than 2,000 pounds.

17 “(3) STATE AUTHORIZATION.—A State seeking
18 to authorize a vehicle to operate on the Interstate
19 System routes within its boundaries under para-
20 graph (1) or to increase the maximum axle weight
21 requirements under paragraph (2) shall do so pursu-
22 ant to authority provided under the laws of the
23 State.

24 “(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(A) ANNUAL REPORT.—If a State author-
2 izes vehicles described in paragraph (1) to oper-
3 ate on highway routes in the State in a fiscal
4 year, the State shall submit to the Secretary for
5 the fiscal year an annual report at such time,
6 in such manner, and containing such informa-
7 tion as the Secretary may require, including, at
8 a minimum, the following:

9 “(i) An identification of highway
10 routes in the State, including routes not on
11 the Interstate System, on which the State
12 authorizes vehicles described in paragraph
13 (1) to operate.

14 “(ii) A description of the operating re-
15 quirements and gross vehicle weight limits
16 applicable to the vehicles described in para-
17 graph (1).

18 “(iii) Safety statistics, including esti-
19 mated vehicle miles traveled data, con-
20 cerning the vehicles described in paragraph
21 (1).

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

1 “(5) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may termi-
2 nate the operation of vehicles authorized under this
3 subsection on a specific Interstate System route seg-
4 ment if the Secretary determines that such operation
5 poses an unreasonable safety risk based on an engi-
6 neering analysis or an analysis of safety data or any
7 other applicable data the Secretary may use.

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

16 “(k) VEHICLES LAWFULLY OPERATING ON DECEM-
17 BER 31, 2012.—In addition to authority otherwise pro-
18 vided to a State under this section, a State may permit
19 a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight that could have been
20 lawfully operated on the Interstate System in the State
21 on December 31, 2012, to operate on the Interstate Sys-
22 tem in that State upon the date of enactment of this sub-
23 section.”.

1 **SEC. 3. SAFE AND EFFICIENT VEHICLE BRIDGE INFRA-**
2 **STRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 23, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 171. Safe and efficient vehicle bridge infrastruc-**
7 **ture improvement program**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish a safe and efficient vehicle bridge infrastructure im-
10 provement program in accordance with this section.

11 “(b) APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS TO ELIGIBLE
12 STATES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On October 1 of each fiscal
14 year, the Secretary shall apportion, in accordance
15 with paragraph (2), the sums made available out of
16 the Safe and Efficient Vehicle Trust Fund for that
17 fiscal year to carry out this section.

18 “(2) RATIO TO ELIGIBLE STATES.—The sums
19 made available out of the Safe and Efficient Vehicle
20 Trust Fund shall be apportioned among eligible
21 States in a ratio that—

22 “(A) the total vehicle miles traveled on
23 Interstate System highways by vehicles author-
24 ized to travel on such highways pursuant to sec-
25 tion 127(j) in each eligible State, as determined
26 by the Secretary; bears to

1 “(B) the total vehicle miles traveled on
2 Interstate System highways by vehicles author-
3 ized to travel on such highways pursuant to sec-
4 tion 127(j) in all eligible States, as determined
5 by the Secretary.

6 “(c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible State that re-
7 ceives an apportionment in a fiscal year under subsection
8 (b) shall use the amounts of the apportionment for bridge
9 projects eligible for assistance under this chapter that are
10 located on the Interstate System.

11 “(d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Funds made available
12 out of the Safe and Efficient Vehicle Trust Fund to carry
13 out this section shall be available for obligation in the
14 same manner as if the funds were made available from
15 the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit
16 Account).

17 “(e) ELIGIBLE STATE DEFINED.—In this section,
18 the term ‘eligible State’ means a State that authorizes a
19 vehicle described in section 127(j) to operate on the Inter-
20 state System within its borders.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such
22 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“171. Safe and efficient vehicle bridge infrastructure improvement program.”.

1 **SEC. 4. SAFE AND EFFICIENT VEHICLE CHARGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 4481 of
3 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “In the case of the use of any highway motor vehicle de-
6 scribed in section 127(j) of title 23, United States Code,
7 if that vehicle is used on the Interstate System with a
8 gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds, in lieu of the
9 rate in the table, the rate shall be equal to the lesser of—

10 (1) \$100 per year, plus \$22 for each 1,000
11 pounds (or fraction thereof) in excess of 55,000
12 pounds, or

13 (2) \$800 per year.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
15 this section shall apply to taxable periods beginning after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 5. SAFE AND EFFICIENT VEHICLE TRUST FUND.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of the
19 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to the trust fund
20 code) is amended by adding at the end the following new
21 section:

22 **“SEC. 9512. SAFE AND EFFICIENT VEHICLE TRUST FUND.**

23 “(a) CREATION OF FUND.—There is hereby estab-
24 lished in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be
25 known as the ‘Safe and Efficient Vehicle Trust Fund’,
26 consisting of such amounts as may be—

1 “(1) appropriated to the Safe and Efficient Ve-
2 hicle Trust Fund as provided in this section, or

3 “(2) credited to the Safe and Efficient Vehicle
4 Trust Fund as provided in section 9602(b).

5 “(b) TRANSFER TO SAFE AND EFFICIENT VEHICLE
6 TRUST FUND OF AMOUNTS EQUIVALENT TO CERTAIN
7 TAXES.—There are hereby appropriated to the Safe and
8 Efficient Vehicle Trust Fund amounts equivalent to the
9 taxes received in the Treasury under section 4481(a)
10 which are attributable to the use of any highway motor
11 vehicle described in section 127(j) of title 23, United
12 States Code, if that vehicle is used on the Interstate Sys-
13 tem with a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds.

14 “(c) EXPENDITURES FROM SAFE AND EFFICIENT
15 VEHICLE TRUST FUND.—Amounts in the Safe and Effi-
16 cient Vehicle Trust Fund shall be available, as provided
17 by appropriations Acts, for fiscal years beginning 1 year
18 after the date of the enactment of this section for projects
19 eligible for assistance under section 171(c) of title 23,
20 United States Code.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) Paragraph (1) of section 9503(b) of such
23 Code is amended by striking the period at the end
24 and inserting “, and taxes received under section
25 4481 shall be determined without regard to those re-

1 received in the Treasury under section 4481(a) which
2 are attributable to the use of any highway motor ve-
3 hicle described in section 127(j) of title 23, United
4 States Code, if that vehicle is used on the Interstate
5 System with a gross weight in excess of 80,000
6 pounds.”.

7 (2) The table of sections for subchapter A of
8 chapter 98 of such Code is amended by adding at
9 the end the following:

“Sec. 9512. Safe and Efficient Vehicle Trust Fund.”.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
12 of this Act.

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