

House Concurrent Resolution No. 48

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KOLKMEYER.

2625H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to federal interstate truck weight regulations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

2 **WHEREAS**, the United States and Missouri economies continue to expand today and
3 therefore so does the need to grow and maintain an efficient and effective national infrastructure;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri should be given the freedom and the tools necessary
6 to optimize its commercial transportation networks in a way that incorporates interstate highways
7 into its network of preferred truck routes and does not leave in place a federal scheme that
8 creates an incentive for states to funnel trucks over 80,000 pounds onto noninterstate roads; and
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10 **WHEREAS**, the United States is facing a trucking capacity crisis; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, unprecedented demand and critical driver shortages are resulting in an
13 environment where today's logistics models are unable to keep pace with increased production
14 by manufacturers and other businesses; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, large and small businesses alike that rely on trucks to ship their products
17 across the country often meet the 80,000 pound weight limit with significant space left in their
18 trailers, resulting in an increased number of required truckloads to transport their goods to
19 customers; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, for more than 30 years, the federal vehicle weight limit for interstate
22 highways has been set at 80,000 pounds which is an outdated regulation making it difficult for
23 states to take advantage of newer, safer engineering and technological advances, and imposing
24 old solutions to new challenges involving our safety, economy, environment and infrastructure;
25 and
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27 **WHEREAS**, key features of the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act would maintain
28 and preserve local control by states that elect to increase interstate weight limits up to 97,000
29 pounds for a single trailer, same-sized vehicles equipped with six axles; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, numerous countries, state agencies and institutions of higher learning
32 including the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, Wisconsin Department
33 of Transportation, European Union, United Kingdom, National Academy of Sciences, and the
34 Maine Department of Transportation have engaged in meaningful quantitative and qualitative
35 research which supports increasing truck weights for single trailer vehicles equipped with a sixth
36 axle; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, these documented studies have found that granting access to six-axle higher
39 productivity vehicles results in a notable reduction in truck-related accidents, an increase in the
40 quantity of goods shipped by a given number of trucks, a 17% increase in the amount of tons-
41 per-mile that can be
42 transported, and a 19% decrease in total fuel consumption; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, these proposals will encourage the use of safe, higher productivity vehicles
45 that will reduce the number of heavy truckloads that are required to move a given amount of
46 goods; improve highway safety; dramatically reduce fuel use and CO2 emissions; and reduce
47 congestion and pavement wear:

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49 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
50 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
51 concurring therein, hereby promote and encourage the modernization of our nation's inefficient
52 interstate truck weight regulations, an improvement which will result in safer, more
53 environmentally friendly and more productive shipping opportunities for American businesses;
54 and

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56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of this body urge the Congress of the
57 United States to pass concepts embedded in the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2013
58 to support today's economic recovery, modernize antiquated federal regulations, and grant states
59 the ability to increase the amount of weight trucks are permitted to carry on a state's interstate
60 highways and bridges; and

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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Missouri House of
63 Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to
64 each member of the Missouri congressional delegation and the Governor of Missouri.

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