

H.R. 1799 - Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2009
Section-by-Section

Section 1 – Title

This section entitles the bill the “Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2009”

Section 2 – Increasing Weight Limitations for Certain Vehicles

This section allows a state to authorize to travel on the Interstate System within the state vehicles of up to 97,000 lbs in gross vehicle weight on six axles. Axle weight limits are set at 20,000 lbs. for a single axle, 34,000 lbs for a tandem axle, and 51,000 lbs. for an axle set of three or more, with a 2,000 lbs. variance allowed on any particular axle set.

This section also requires states produce an annual report including routes within the state on which a truck weight limit in excess of 80,000 are allowed, a description of the operating requirements of those vehicles as required by the state, and safety statistics. The bill would also require a five year assessment of impacts, if any, of these vehicles on pavement and bridge maintenance costs.

Finally, this section allows the Secretary of Transportation to terminate operation of vehicles over 80,000 lbs. on any routes on which he/she determines that such operation poses an unreasonable safety risk.

Section 3 – Safe and Efficient Vehicle Bridge Infrastructure Improvement Program

This section establishes a Safe and Efficient Vehicle Bridge Infrastructure Improvement Program to apportion the funds raised through adjustments to the Overweight Vehicle Tax as described in Section 4. These funds would be kept in the Safe and Efficient Vehicle Trust Fund described in Section 5, until allocated to states in which the allowed weight limit, either as a result of this bill or previous exemptions, exceeds 80,000 lbs. This program would fund bridge modifications and repair.

Section 4 – Overweight Vehicle Tax

This section adjusts the overweight vehicle tax by raising the cap to \$800 per year.

Section 5 – Safe and Efficient Vehicle Trust Fund

This section establishes a Safe and Efficient Vehicle Trust fund to receive the funds being raised through the increase in the overweight vehicle tax cap. Allocations to states under the Safe and Efficient Vehicle Bridge Infrastructure Improvement Program would be distributed from this fund.