AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–
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OFFERED BY MR. BABIN OF TEXAS

Page 499, after line 22, insert the following:

SEC. 1632. SAFE OPERATION OF COVERED VEHICLES.

Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (m) and inserting the following:

“(m) COVERED HEAVY-DUTY TOW AND RECOVERY VEHICLES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The vehicle weight limits set forth in this section do not apply to a covered heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle.

“(2) COVERED HEAVY-DUTY TOW AND RECOVERY VEHICLE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle’ means a vehicle that—

“(A) is transporting a disabled vehicle from the place where the vehicle became disabled to the nearest appropriate repair facility; and
“(B) has a gross vehicle weight rating that is equal to or exceeds the gross vehicle weight rating of the disabled vehicle being transported.

“(3) PERMITTING REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the authority of this section shall be exercised by permit in accordance with State law.

“(B) SAFE OPERATION.—The permit described in subparagraph (A) shall include routing or similar information to ensure safe operation of a covered heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle on highway bridges and tunnels.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (r) and inserting the following:

“(r) EMERGENCY VEHICLES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State shall not enforce against an emergency vehicle a vehicle weight limit (up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 86,000 pounds) of less than—

“(A) 24,000 pounds on a single steering axle;

“(B) 33,500 pounds on a single drive axle;

“(C) 62,000 pounds on a tandem axle; or
“(D) 52,000 pounds on a tandem rear drive steer axle.

“(2) **EMERGENCY VEHICLE DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘emergency vehicle’ means a vehicle designed to be used under emergency conditions—

“(A) to transport personnel and equipment; and

“(B) to support the suppression of fires and mitigation of other hazardous situations.

“(3) **PERMITTING REQUIREMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the authority of this section shall be exercised by permit in accordance with State law.

“(B) **SAFE OPERATION.**—A permit described in subparagraph (A) shall include routing or similar information to ensure safe operation of an emergency vehicle on highway bridges and tunnels.”.