

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

54

OFFERED BY MR. BABIN OF TEXAS

Page 499, after line 22, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 1632. SAFE OPERATION OF COVERED VEHICLES.**

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

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

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

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

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

15 “(A) is transporting a disabled vehicle
16 from the place where the vehicle became dis-
17 abled to the nearest appropriate repair facility;
18 and

1 “(B) has a gross vehicle weight rating that
2 is equal to or exceeds the gross vehicle weight
3 rating of the disabled vehicle being transported.

4 “(3) PERMITTING REQUIREMENT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-
6 graph (1), the authority of this section shall be
7 exercised by permit in accordance with State
8 law.

9 “(B) SAFE OPERATION.—The permit de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include rout-
11 ing or similar information to ensure safe oper-
12 ation of a covered heavy-duty tow and recovery
13 vehicle on highway bridges and tunnels.”; and
14 (2) by striking subsection (r) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(r) EMERGENCY VEHICLES.—

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

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

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

25 “(C) 62,000 pounds on a tandem axle; or

1 “(D) 52,000 pounds on a tandem rear
2 drive steer axle.

3 “(2) EMERGENCY VEHICLE DEFINED.—In this
4 subsection, the term ‘emergency vehicle’ means a ve-
5 hicle designed to be used under emergency condi-
6 tions—

7 “(A) to transport personnel and equip-
8 ment; and

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

11 “(3) PERMITTING REQUIREMENT.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-
13 graph (1), the authority of this section shall be
14 exercised by permit in accordance with State
15 law.

16 “(B) SAFE OPERATION.—A permit de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include rout-
18 ing or similar information to ensure safe oper-
19 ation of an emergency vehicle on highway
20 bridges and tunnels.”.

