AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–8

OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 1056, after line 15, insert the following:

SEC. 4410. COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE WEIGHT CLASS DISTINCTIONS.

(a) REGULATORY APPLICABILITY RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall initiate a study to determine if the current applicability of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations based on a commercial motor vehicle’s gross vehicle weight rating or actual weight provides the greatest level of safety.

(2) EVALUATION FACTORS.—In carrying out the research under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include an evaluation of the following:

(A) The frequency of crashes and fatalities in relation to a vehicle’s weight.

(B) If the 10,001 pounds minimum threshold for a vehicle to be considered a commercial motor vehicle should be changed.
(C) If safety would be improved by amending the weight class of vehicles requiring drug and alcohol testing for drivers.

(D) If safety would be improved by amending the weight class of vehicles requiring a driver to have a commercial drivers license.

(E) If amending weight class distinctions would improve uniformity of data collection between the States and other Federal agencies.

(F) Other relevant information determined necessary by the Secretary in order to make recommendations under paragraph (3).

(3) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date that the Secretary initiates the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and publish publicly a report containing—

(A) the findings of the Secretary on each of the factors in paragraph (2);

(B) a list of regulations applicable to commercial motor vehicles and commercial motor
vehicle operators based on a vehicle’s gross vehicle weight rating or actual weight; and

(C) recommendations, based on the findings, on changes to laws or regulations at the Federal level to promote safe operations.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with State motor carrier enforcement entities in carrying out this section.