

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION A

LLS NO. R22-0080.02 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE Joint Resolution

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

101 **CONCERNING A REQUEST THAT CONGRESS ALLOW THE STATE OF**
102 **COLORADO TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF AND POSSIBLY MOVE**
103 **FORWARD ON HARMONIZING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT FOR**
104 **TRUCKS ON THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM IN COLORADO**
105 **WITH THAT OF OTHER STATE HIGHWAYS.**

1 WHEREAS, Trucking and truck drivers have been essential during
2 the COVID-19 pandemic in delivering critical goods, such as food, fuel,
3 medical supplies, and much more; and

4 WHEREAS, Trucking is critical in the movement of goods and
5 products for agriculture, ranchers, manufacturers, grocers, and fuel
6 suppliers, with over 80% of the manufactured products in Colorado being
7 moved by truck; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, 79% of the communities in Colorado are served
2 solely by truck for their freight needs; and

3 WHEREAS, The state's and nation's supply chains have been
4 greatly stressed due to a range of issues that include a truck driver
5 shortage, which is anticipated to continue into the future, along with
6 increasing freight demands from our growing state that have led to
7 shortages, delays, and higher prices for the movement of goods within the
8 state; and

9 WHEREAS, For over 40 years, Colorado state law has authorized
10 a maximum gross vehicle weight of 85,000 pounds for all state highways,
11 with the only exception being the Interstate Highway System; and

12 WHEREAS, Federal law authorizes a maximum gross vehicle
13 weight of 80,000 pounds for the Interstate Highway System; and

14 WHEREAS, The different gross vehicle weight standards between
15 interstate and state highways causes routing issues for the state's
16 transportation system; and

17 WHEREAS, The Interstate Highway System is constructed to a
18 higher design specification than most state highways and should be more
19 capable of handling higher weights than other state highways; and

20 WHEREAS, An interstate highway may be the most direct route
21 for many trips, but transporters instead travel on other state highways to
22 avoid the lower weight restriction; and

23 WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Polis,
24 with the support of the United States Department of Transportation,
25 approved an emergency waiver that temporarily raised the maximum
26 weight of trucks allowed on Colorado interstate highways from 80,000 to
27 85,000 pounds in order to move essential goods and supplies, and there
28 was no discernible increase in truck accidents on the Interstate Highway
29 System in Colorado; and

30 WHEREAS, Increasing the gross vehicle weight for the Interstate
31 Highway System to match that of other state highways may result in
32 fewer trucks, less vehicle miles traveled, and lower emissions of
33 greenhouse gases, and this helps the state to meet its greenhouse emission
34 rules and comply with emission standards of the United States

1 Environmental Protection Agency; and

2 WHEREAS, Governor Polis, the Colorado General Assembly, the
3 Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Colorado State Patrol
4 may be best positioned to determine if it is in the best interests of the state
5 to harmonize the maximum gross vehicle weight for the state's Interstate
6 Highway System with other state highways; and

7 WHEREAS, A study performed by the Colorado Department of
8 Transportation considering safety, environmental, mobility, and economic
9 factors is the best way to assess the benefits and costs of changing the
10 maximum gross vehicle weight for trucks on Colorado interstate
11 highways; and

12 WHEREAS, Such a study should engage a broad range of
13 stakeholders both from the public and private sectors to ensure that all
14 perspectives are considered; and

15 WHEREAS, If approved by the United States Congress and if the
16 study finds that it is in the best interests of the state to raise the maximum
17 gross vehicle weight on the Interstate Highway System to 85,000 pounds
18 to harmonize it with other state highways, the state of Colorado, with the
19 approval of the General Assembly and the Governor, would move
20 forward with a change to state statute; now, therefore,

21 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third*
22 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

23 That the Colorado General Assembly requests:

24 (1) That Congress allow the Colorado Department of
25 Transportation to conduct an analysis of increasing the gross vehicle
26 weight limit for the Interstate Highway System in Colorado to harmonize
27 it with other state highways where 85,000 pounds is the maximum
28 weight; and

29 (2) That if the completed study determines that it is in the best
30 interests of Colorado to harmonize the weights for the Interstate Highway
31 System and other state highways, the Colorado General Assembly and the
32 Governor be permitted by state statute to increase the gross vehicle
33 weight limit to 85,000 pounds for vehicles traveling on the Interstate
34 Highway System in Colorado.

1 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
2 to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the
3 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
4 Representatives, and each member of Colorado's congressional
5 delegation.