

# State of Vermont

## House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

### Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 12

Joint resolution requesting Congress to authorize a 90,000-pound weight limitation for all commodities transported in five-axle or more truck tractors, semi-trailer combinations, or truck trailer combinations traveling on interstate highways in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Acinapura of Brandon, Ainsworth of Royalton, Ancel of Calais, Canfield of Fair Haven, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Courcelle of Rutland City, Crawford of Burke, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Gilbert of Fairfax, Heath of Westford, Helm of Castleton, Howrigan of Fairfield, Johnson of South Hero, Kilmartin of Newport City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lawrence of Lyndon, Leriche of Hardwick, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, Marek of Newfane, McAllister of Highgate, Miller of Shaftsbury, Minter of Waterbury, Mitchell of Barnard, Mook of Bennington, Morley of Barton, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson, Pellett of Chester, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Shoreham, Trombley of Grand Isle, Wheeler of Derby and Zenie of Colchester

Whereas, the interstate highways which cross the state of Vermont serve as major thoroughfares for the long-distance shipment of commodities, and

Whereas, interstate highways are built to the highest safety standards of any roads in the United States, and

Whereas, haulers of water and milk traveling on Vermont's interstate highways are now authorized to ship a maximum load of 90,000 pounds when transporting those items in five-axle or more truck tractors, semi-trailer combinations, or truck trailer combinations, and

Whereas, these vehicles are equipped with the necessary brake and suspension systems to transport safely weight loads equal to 90,000 pounds, and

Whereas, the 80,000-pound weight limitation for haulers shipping commodities other than milk or water in these vehicles is inequitable and not justified, and

Whereas, Congress has authorized a 90,000-pound weight limitation for the transporting of all goods in these vehicles on the interstate highways in the state of New Hampshire, and

Whereas, if haulers were authorized to ship 90,000-pound loads, regardless of the commodity, in these vehicles on Vermont's interstate highways, the transporting of goods could be accomplished more efficiently and in fewer vehicles, and

Whereas, vehicles weighing in excess of 80,000 pounds can be operated on the interstate at the present time, but only with single-trip permits, issued by the department of motor vehicles, which are both expensive and time-consuming to obtain, and

Whereas, operating vehicles on the interstates in Vermont instead of on state roads and city streets promotes greater efficiencies and an improved quality of life, and

Whereas, the congressional authorization of the 90,000-pound weight limitation for interstate highways located in the state of New Hampshire demonstrates that the highway safety issues related to this weight increase have already been examined in detail, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly requests Congress to grant statutory authorization permitting a 90,000-pound weight limitation for all commodities transported in five-axle or more truck tractors, semi-trailer combinations, or truck trailer combinations traveling on interstate highways in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and to the members of the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

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**Shapleigh Smith, Jr.**  
**Speaker of the House**

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**Brian E. Dubie**  
**President of the Senate**

**Attested to:**

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**Donald G. Milne**  
**Clerk, House of Representatives**