21.3005.01000

Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Introduced by

23

## FIRST DRAFT: Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for the Agriculture and Transportation Committee March 2020

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to temporarily amend cargo carrying truck length and 2 weight restrictions on state highways and interstates that are a part of the National Network to 3 allow North Dakota and surrounding states to conduct a road train pilot program and to 4 permanently amend the restrictions to allow road trains on the National Network highways and 5 interstates if the pilot program is successful. 6 WHEREAS, the National Network is an approved network of state highways and interstates 7 in the United States for use by large trucks and commercial truck drivers; and 8 WHEREAS, the National Network supports interstate commerce by regulating the size of 9 trucks operating on the National Network through a federal cargo carrying length limitation of 10 approximately 100 feet depending on truck configuration and a federal cargo carrying weight 11 limitation of approximately 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight; and 12 WHEREAS, grandfathered provisions in operation in the state at the time federal 13 regulations were enacted provide trucks in North Dakota may be up to 110 feet in overall length 14 and 105,500 pounds gross vehicle weight on permissible routes; and 15 WHEREAS, trucks operating on the 129,000 pound Limited Transportation Network may be 16 up to 129,000 pounds gross vehicle weight on certain routes; and 17 WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a shortage of approximately 900,000 truck 18 drivers with commercial driver's licenses; and 19 WHEREAS, railroad infrastructure has diminished by approximately 40 percent between 20 1920 and 2017, from 5,400 miles of track to 3,330 miles of track; and 21 WHEREAS, it is becoming more difficult to move increasing demands for freight and 22 commodities in a timely and efficient manner due, in part, to the shortage of commercial truck

drivers and the reduced railroad infrastructure; and

1	WHEREAS, a road train is a trucking vehicle consisting of two or more connected trailers or		
2	semitrailers linked and hauled by a single operating prime mover or tractor unit which may		
3	exceed overall length and weight limitations; and		
4	WHEREAS, Australia uses road trains to to move freight in an efficient manner to meet		
5	demand; and		
6	WHEREAS, allowing road trains to exceed federal truck length and weight limitations may		
7	be a viable solution to the efficiency and capacity issues resulting from the shortage of		
8	commercial truck drivers and reduced railroad infrastructure by allowing commercial truck		
9	drivers to haul more freight in lor	nger and heavier cargo loads;	
10	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT	RESOLVED BY THE	OF NORTH
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11	DAKOTA, THE	CONCURRING THEREIN:	
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12	That the Sixty-seventh Legis temporarily amend cargo carryin	CONCURRING THEREIN: slative Assembly urges the Congress of the Ur	nited States to e highways and
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