

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 8

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 67

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 8—Relative to vehicles.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 8, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 8, Honda. Vehicles: truck size and weight standards.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress to maintain the current standards relating to truck size and weight set forth in the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

WHEREAS, This state supports safe and reliable trucking businesses and drivers; and

WHEREAS, All trucks known as “longer combination vehicles” encroach considerably into adjacent lanes while turning, and, according to the Department of Transportation, cannot operate safely in a majority of the urban areas in the state; and

WHEREAS, Due to their longer length, greater number of trailers and articulation points, and generally greater instability, traffic accidents involving triple trailer trucks are expected to be more severe than single trailer truck accidents; and

WHEREAS, A truck weighing 80,000 pounds is more than twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash than a truck weighing 50,000 pounds; and

WHEREAS, The steering sensitivity of tractor semitrailers falls sharply as the gross vehicle weight increases, making fatal crashes more likely due to the operator's diminished ability to control the truck; and

WHEREAS, Due to the higher center of gravity in heavier trucks, those vehicles are more likely to roll over; and

WHEREAS, Overlength trucks, such as “longer combination vehicles,” result in “off-tracking” during turns, where a 57-foot long single truck will necessarily either roll over the curb or swing out into the oncoming lane of traffic; and

WHEREAS, One 80,000 pound tractor semitrailer that is in compliance with all regulations does as much damage to the roads as 9,600 cars; and

WHEREAS, “Longer combination vehicles” are currently prohibited in California because of the threat that those vehicles present to highway safety; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature supports truck size and weight standards currently established by the Vehicle Code; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature opposes any efforts to increase the size and weight of commercial trucks; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature opposes any efforts to weaken hours of service regulations or to provide geographic exceptions to the prohibition against “longer combination vehicles” in the State of California; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to maintain the current standards relating to truck size and weight set forth in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-240); and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

