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H.574

Introduced by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro and Coffey of Guilford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; wreckers; weight limits

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to exempt a wrecker towing a disabled vehicle from the State's gross weight limits on highways in certain instances.

An act relating to wrecker exemption from gross weight limits on highways

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1392 is amended to read:

§ 1392. GROSS WEIGHT LIMITS ON HIGHWAYS

Except as provided in ~~section~~ sections 1400 and 1400e of this title, a person or corporation shall not operate or cause to be operated a motor vehicle in excess of the total weight, including vehicle, object, or contrivance and load, of:

* * *

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1400e is added to read:

§ 1400e. EXCEPTION FOR DISABLED VEHICLES BEING TOWED

1 (a) A combination of vehicles including a wrecker towing one or more
2 disabled vehicles with a total gross vehicle weight exceeding the weight
3 limitations imposed by article 1 of this subchapter may be operated on a public
4 highway in this State without a permit provided that:

5 (1) neither the wrecker nor disabled vehicle or vehicles individually
6 exceed the weight limitations imposed by article 1 of this subchapter;

7 (2) there are enough axels to distribute the total gross vehicle weight at a
8 rate of 20,000 pounds per axel with dual wheels and 12,000 pounds per axel
9 with single wheels;

10 (3) the wrecker has a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000
11 pounds and is equipped with air brakes if the disabled vehicle or vehicles are
12 also equipped with air brakes;

13 (4) the wrecker is equipped with flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber
14 signal lamps that are visible for at least 500 feet in all directions;

15 (5) the wrecker utilizes the lighting and braking system of the disabled
16 vehicle or vehicles; and

17 (6) the total trip distance does not exceed 75 miles.

18 (b) The operator of the wrecker operating pursuant to this section must
19 abide by all speed limitations and posted bridge and highway weight
20 limitations and may not exceed 45 miles per hour if the gross vehicle weight is
21 90,000 pounds or greater.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage.