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Overview

This bill amends truck weight regulations related to agricultural transportation and enforcement of vehicle weight limits.

1 Application; cancellation; excessive gross weight forbidden. Broadens a "first haul" exception from certain vehicle weight regulations. The exception applies to vehicles that exceed weight limits by ten percent or less and are performing the first transport of unprocessed farm products or unfinished forest products from the place of production to a location within 50 miles. Under the change, the transportation range when the exception is in place is increased from 50 to 150 miles.

The regulations for which the first haul exception applies include: (1) a provision requiring reregistering a commercial vehicle at a higher weight classification when a person is convicted of operating the vehicle in excess of the weight for which it was originally registered; (2) provisions allowing for prosecution of weight limit violations on the basis of vehicle weight records; and (3) a dollar limit on civil penalties for some weight limit violations.

- 2 Record keeping. Amends the recordkeeping requirements for firms (such as a grain elevator) that weigh goods as part of vehicle loading or unloading, to reduce from 14 to 7 days the length of time during which records on shipments must be retained.
- 3 Limit on civil penalties. Amends the timeline under which a civil penalty for overweight vehicles can be imposed based on vehicle weight records, so that:
 - records must be inspected within seven days (decreased from 14 days); and
 - the penalty assessment must take place within 30 days of weight record inspection.