HOUSE BILL NO. 681

INTRODUCED BY SIVERTSEN, KEYSER, MARKS, GRAHAM, KROPP, MENAHAN

IN THE HOUSE

February 7, 1981	Introduced and referred to Committee on Highways and Transportation.
February 10, 1981	Fiscal note requested.
February 12, 1981	Fiscal note returned.
February 14, 1981	Committee recommend bill do pass. Report adopted.
February 16, 1981	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 18, 1981	Second reading, do pass.
February 19, 1981	Considered correctly engrossed.
February 20, 1981	Third reading, passed. Ayes, 100; Noes, 0. Transmitted to Senate.

IN THE SENATE

February 21, 1981	Introduced and referred to Committee on Highways and Transportation.
March 11, 1981	Committee recommend bill be concurred in. Report adopted.
March 12, 1981	Second reading, concurred in.
March 14, 1981	Third reading, concurred in. Ayes, 44; Noes, 3.

IN THE HOUSE

March 17, 1981

Returned from Senate. Concurred in.

March 20, 1981

Sent to enrolling. Reported correctly enrolled.

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1 HOUSE BILL NO. 681
2 INTRODUCED BY Servitae The Ser Marks Trackers
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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ADOPTING THE MULTISTATE

5 HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT.*

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement — enactment and text. The Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all other jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

MULTISTATE HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

Pursuant to and in conformity with the laws of their respective jurisdictions, the participating jurisdictions, acting by and through their officials lawfully authorized to execute this agreement, do mutually agree as follows:

Article I. Findings and Purposes

Section 1. Findings. The participating jurisdictions
find that:

- (a) the expanding regional economy depends on expanding transportation capacity;
- 23 (b) highway transportation is the major mode for
 24 movement of people and goods in the western states;
- 25 (c) uniform application in the West of more adequate

vehicle size and weight standards will result in a reduction of pollution, congestion, fuel consumption, and related transportation costs, which are necessary to permit increased productivity;

- (d) a number of western states, already having adopted substantially the 1964 bureau of public roads recommended vehicle size and weight standards, still find current federal limits more restrictive;
- 9 (e) the 1974 revision of federal law (23 U.S.C. 127)
 10 did not contain any substantial improvements for vehicle
 11 size and weight standards in the western states and deprives
 12 states of interstate matching money if vehicle weights and
 13 widths are increased, even though the interstate system is
 14 nearly 92% complete; and
- (f) the participating jurisdictions are most capable
 of developing vehicle size and weight standards most
 appropriate for the regional economy and transportation
 requirements, consistent with and in recognition of
 principles of highway safety.
- 29 Section 2. Purposes. The purposes of this agreement 21 are to:
- 22 (a) adhere to the principle that each participating
 23 jurisdiction should have the freedom to develop vehicle size
 24 and weight standards that it determines to be most
 25 appropriate to its economy and highway system;

-2- INTRODUCED BILL

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(b)	establish	a system a	uthorizing th	e operation of
vehicles	traveling	between two	or more	participating
jurisdict	ions at more	adequate si	e and weight	standards;
{c}	promote	uniformity	anong	participating
jurisdict	ions in vehi	cle size and	weight stan	dards on the

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(d) secure uniformity, insofar as possible, of administrative procedures in the enforcement of recommended vehicle size and weight standards;

basis of the objectives set forth in this agreement;

(e) provide means for the encouragement and utilization of research that will facilitate the achievement of the foregoing purposes, with due regard for the findings set forth in section 1 of this article.

Article II. Definitions

Section 1. As used in this agreement:

- (a) "designated representative" means a legislator or other person authorized to represent the jurisdiction;
- (b) "jurisdiction" means a state of the United States or the District of Columbia;
- (c) "wehicle" means any wehicle as defined by statute
 to be subject to size and weight standards that operates in
 two or more participating jurisdictions.

Article III. General Provisions

24 Section 1. Qualifications for membership.
25 Participation in this agreement is open to jurisdictions

that subscribe to the findings, purposes, and objectives of this agreement and will seek legislation necessary to accomplish these objectives.

Section 2. Cooperation. The participating jurisdictions, working through their designated representatives, shall cooperate and assist each other in achieving the desired goals of this agreement pursuant to appropriate statutory authority.

Section 3. Effect of headings. Article and section headings contained herein may not be considered to govern, limit, modify, or in any manner affect the scope, meaning, or intent of the provisions of any article or section hereof.

Section 4. Vehicle laws and regulations. This
agreement does not authorize the operation of a vehicle in
any participating jurisdiction contrary to the laws or
regulations thereof.

Section 5. Interpretation. The final decision regarding interpretation of questions at issue relating to this agreement shall be reached by unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions, acting through the designated representatives. Results of all such actions shall be placed in writing.

24 Section 6. Amendment. This agreement may be amended by 25 unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions,

-4-

- acting through the officials thereof authorized to enter 1 into this agreement, subject to the requirements of section 2 3 4. Article III. Any amendment shall be placed in writing and become a part hereof.
- Section 7. Restrictions, conditions, or limitations. 5 Any jurisdiction entering this agreement shall provide each 6 other participating jurisdiction with a list of any 7 8 restriction. condition. or limitation on the general terms 9 of this agreement, if any.
- 10 Section 8. Additional jurisdictions. Additional jurisdictions may become members of this agreement by 11 12 signing and accepting the terms of the agreement.
- Article IV. Cooperating Committee 13

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- Section 1. Pursuant to section 2, Article III, the designated representatives the participating jurisdictions shall constitute a committee that shall have the power to:
- (a) collect. correlate, analyze, and evaluate information resulting or derivable from research and testing activities in relation to vehicle size and weight related matters:
- (b) recommend and encourage the undertaking of research and testing in any aspect of vehicle size and weight or related matter when, in their collective judgment, appropriate or sufficient research or testing has not been

undertaken: 1

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- (c) recommend changes in law or policy with emphasis 2 on compatibility of laws and uniformity of administrative rules that would promote effective governmental action or coordination in the field of vehicle size and weight related matters.
- 7 Section 2. Each participating jurisdiction shall be entitled to one vote only. No action of the committee shall 9 be binding unless a majority of the total number of votes 10 cast by participating jurisdictions are in favor thereof.
- Section 3. The committee shall meet at least once 11 12 annually and shall elect, from among its members, a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary. 13
 - Section 4. The committee shall submit annually to the legislature of each participating jurisdiction, no later than November 1, a report setting forth the work of the committee during the preceding year and including recommendations developed by the committee. The committee may submit such additional reports as it considers appropriate or desirable. Copies of all such reports shall be made available to the transportation committee of the western conference, council of state governments, and to the western association of state highway and transportation officials.
 - Article V. Objectives of the

Participating Jurisdictions

Section 1. Objectives. The participating jurisdictions hereby declare that:

- (a) it is the objective of the participating jurisdictions to obtain more efficient and more economical transportation by motor vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions by encouraging the adoption of standards that will, as minimums, allow the operation on all state highways, except those determined through engineering evaluation to be inadequate, with a single-axle weight not in excess of 20,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight not in excess of 34,000 pounds, and a gross vehicle or combination weight not in excess of that resulting from application of the formula:
- W = 500((LN/N 1) + 12N + 36)
- 16 where W = maximum weight in pounds carried on any group of
 17 two or computed to nearest 500 pounds;
 - L = distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles;
 - N = number of axles in group under consideration;
 - (b) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions that in the event the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles according to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section would result in withholding or forfeiture of federal-aid funds pursuant to section 127,

- Title 23, U.S. Code, the operation of such vehicle or combination of vehicles at axle and gross weights within the limits set forth in subsection (a) of this section will be authorized under special permit authority by each participating jurisdiction that could legally issue such permits prior to July 1, 1956, provided all regulations and procedures related to such issuance in effect as of July 1, 1956, are adhered to:
 - (c) the objectives of subsections (a) and (b) of this section relate to vehicles or combinations of vehicles in regular operation, and the authority of any participating jurisdiction to issue special permits for the movement of any vehicle or combinations of vehicles having dimensions and/or weights in excess of the maximum statutory limits in each participating jurisdiction will not be affected;
 - (d) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to facilitate and expedite the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions under the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and to that end the participating jurisdictions hereby agree, through their designated representatives, to meet and cooperate in the consideration of vehicle size and weight related matters including but not limited to the development of uniform enforcement procedures; additional vehicle size and weight

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standards; operational standards; agreements or compacts to facilitate regional application and administration of vehicle size and weight standards; uniform permit procedures; uniform application forms; rules for the operation of vehicles, including equipment requirements, driver qualifications, and operating practices; and such other matters as may be pertinent;

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- (e) in recognition of the limited prospects of federal revision of section 127, Title 23, U.S. Code, and in order to protect participating jurisdictions against any possibility of withholding or forfeiture of federal-aid highway funds, it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to secure congressional approval of this agreement and specifically of the vehicle size and weight standards set forth in subsection (a) of this section;
- (f) in recognition of desire for a degree of national uniformity of size and weight regulations, it is the further objective to encourage development of broad, uniform size and weight standards on a national basis and further that procedures adopted under this agreement be compatible with national standards.
- 23 Article VI. Entry into Force and Withdrawal 24 Section 1. This agreement shall enter into force when 25 enacted into law by any two or more jurisdictions.

Thereafter, this agreement shall become effective as to any 1 2 other jurisdiction upon its enactment thereof, except as 3 otherwise provided in section 8, Article III.

Section 2. Any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this agreement by canceling the same but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 30 days after the designated representative of the withdrawing jurisdiction has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to all other participating jurisdictions.

Section 1. This agreement shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof.

Article VII. Construction and Severability

Section 2. The provisions of this agreement shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this agreement is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating jurisdiction or applicability thereto to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this agreement shall not be affected thereby. If this agreement shall be held contrary to the constitution of any jurisdiction participating herein, the agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the jurisdictions

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affected as to all severable matters.

Article VIII. Filing of Documents Section 1. A copy of this agreement, its amendments, and rules promulgated thereunder and interpretations thereof shall be filed in the highway department in each participating jurisdiction and shall be made available for review by interested parties.

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Article IX. Existing Statutes Not Repealed

Section 1. All existing statutes prescribing weight and size standards and all existing statutes relating to special permits shall continue to be of force and effect until amended or repealed by law.

Article X. State Government Departments

Authorized to Cooperate With Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Within appropriations available therefor, the departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state shall cooperate with and assist the cooperating committee within the scope contemplated by Article IV, sections 1(a) and 1(b) of the agreement. The departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state are authorized generally to cooperate with said cooperating committee.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST	NO.	

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received. Feb. 10, 19 81, there is hereby submitted	d a Fiscal Note
HB 681 pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated	(MCA).
Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Plant	ning, to members
of the Legislature upon request.	

Description

HB 681 is an act to adopt the Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement.

Assumptions

It is assumed that one person would attend one annual meeting at an undetermined location to serve as Montana's representative on the Multistate Highway Transportation Committee.

		<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>
١.	Transportation costs -		
	est. 2000 miles	\$ 500.00	\$ 550.00
2.	Meals, Lodging, etc. 5 days	300.00	350.00
Est	imated annual cost	\$ 800.00	\$ 900.00

Costs are unknown for administration, study, or research resulting from committee action.

BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 2-12-81

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2	INTRODUCED BY	Seventse Je Ser Marer Graden	7
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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ADOPTING THE MULTISTATE

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT.

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-- enactment and text. The Multistate Highway Transportation
Agreement is hereby enacted into law and entered into with
all other jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form
substantially as follows:

MULTISTATE HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

Pursuant to and in conformity with the laws of their respective jurisdictions, the participating jurisdictions, acting by and through their officials lawfully authorized to execute this agreement, do mutually agree as follows:

Article I. Findings and Purposes

Section 1. Findings. The participating jurisdictions find that:

- (a) the expanding regional economy depends on expanding transportation capacity;
- 23 (b) highway transportation is the major mode for
 24 movement of people and goods in the western states;
- 25 (c) uniform application in the West of more adequate

vehicle size and weight standards will result in a reduction of pollution, congestion, fuel consumption, and related transportation costs, which are necessary to permit increased productivity;

- (d) a number of western states, already having adopted substantially the 1964 bureau of public roads recommended vehicle size and weight standards, still find current federal limits more restrictive:
- 9 (e) the 1974 revision of federal law (23 U-S-C- 127)
 10 did not contain any substantial improvements for vehicle
 11 size and weight standards in the western states and deprives
 12 states of interstate matching money if vehicle weights and
 13 widths are increased, even though the interstate system is
 14 nearly 92% complete; and
- of developing vehicle size and weight standards most appropriate for the regional economy and transportation requirements, consistent with and in recognition of principles of highway safety.
- 20 Section 2. Purposes. The purposes of this agreement 21 are to:
- 22 (a) adhere to the principle that each participating
 23 jurisdiction should have the freedom to develop vehicle size
 24 and weight standards that it determines to be most
 25 appropriate to its economy and highway system:

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(b) establish a system authorizing the operation of vehicles traveling between two or more participating jurisdictions at more adequate size and weight standards;

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- (c) promote uniformity among participating jurisdictions in vehicle size and weight standards on the basis of the objectives set forth in this agreement;
- (d) secure uniformity, insofar as possible, of administrative procedures in the enforcement of recommended vehicle size and weight standards;
- (e) provide means for the encouragement and utilization of research that will facilitate the achievement of the foregoing purposes, with due regard for the findings set forth in section 1 of this article.

Article II. Definitions

Section 1. As used in this agreement:

- (a) "designated representative" means a legislator or other person authorized to represent the jurisdiction;
- (b) "jurisdiction" means a state of the United States or the District of Columbia;
 - (c) "wehicle" means any vehicle as defined by statute
 to be subject to size and weight standards that operates in
 two or more participating jurisdictions.

Article III. General Provisions

24 Section 1. Qualifications for membership.
25 Participation in this agreement is open to jurisdictions

that subscribe to the findings, purposes, and objectives of
this agreement and will seek legislation necessary to
accomplish these objectives.

Section 2. Cooperation. The participating jurisdictions, working through their designated representatives, shall cooperate and assist each other in achieving the desired goals of this agreement pursuant to appropriate statutory authority.

. Section 3. Effect of headings. Article and section headings contained herein may not be considered to govern, limit, modify, or in any manner affect the scope, meaning, or intent of the provisions of any article or section hereof.

Section 4. Vehicle laws and regulations. This agreement does not authorize the operation of a vehicle in any participating jurisdiction contrary to the laws or regulations thereof.

Section 5. Interpretation. The final decision regarding interpretation of questions at issue relating to this agreement shall be reached by unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions, acting through the designated representatives. Results of all such actions shall be placed in writing.

24 Section 6. Amendment. This agreement may be amended by 25 unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions.

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1	acting through the officials thereof authorized to enter
2	into this agreement, subject to the requirements of section
3	4. Article III. Any amendment shall be placed in writing
4	and become a part hereof.

Section 7. Restrictions, conditions, or limitations.

Any jurisdiction entering this agreement shall provide each other participating jurisdiction with a list of any restriction, condition, or limitation on the general terms of this agreement, if any.

Section 8. Additional jurisdictions. Additional jurisdictions may become members of this agreement by signing and accepting the terms of the agreement.

Article IV. Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Pursuant to section 2. Article III. the designated representatives of the participating jurisdictions shall constitute a committee that shall have the power to:

- (a) collect, correlate, analyze, and evaluate information resulting or derivable from research and testing activities in relation to vehicle size and weight related matters;
- 22 (b) recommend and encourage the undertaking of 23 research and testing in any aspect of vehicle size and 24 weight or related matter when, in their collective judgment, 25 appropriate or sufficient research or testing has not been

1 undertaken;

(c) recommend changes in law or policy with emphasis on compatibility of laws and uniformity of administrative rules that would promote effective governmental action or coordination in the field of vehicle size and weight related matters.

Section 2. Each participating jurisdiction shall be entitled to one vote only. No action of the committee shall be binding unless a majority of the total number of votes cast by participating jurisdictions are in favor thereof.

Section 3. The committee shall meet at least once annually and shall elect, from among its members, a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary.

Section 4. The committee shall submit annually to the legislature of each participating jurisdiction, no later than November 1, a report setting forth the work of the committee during the preceding year and including recommendations developed by the committee. The committee may submit such additional reports as it considers appropriate or desirable. Copies of all such reports shall be made available to the transportation committee of the western conference, council of state governments, and to the western association of state highway and transportation officials.

Article V. Objectives of the

Participating Jurisdictions

Section 1. Objectives. The participating jurisdictions hereby declare that:

- (a) it is the objective of the participating jurisdictions to obtain more efficient and more economical transportation by motor vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions by encouraging the adoption of standards that will, as minimums, allow the operation on all state highways, except those determined through engineering evaluation to be inadequate, with a single-axle weight not in excess of 20,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight not in excess of 34,000 pounds, and a gross vehicle or combination weight not in excess of that resulting from application of the formula:
 - W = 500((LN/N 1) + 12N + 36)
- where W = maximum weight in pounds carried on any group of two or computed to nearest 500 pounds:
 - L = distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles;
 - N = number of axles in group under consideration:
- jurisdictions that in the event the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles according to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section would result in withholding or forfeiture of federal-aid funds pursuant to section 127,

- Title 23, U.S. Code, the operation of such vehicle or combination of vehicles at axle and gross weights within the limits set forth in subsection (a) of this section will be authorized under special permit authority by each participating jurisdiction that could legally issue such permits prior to July 1, 1956, provided all regulations and procedures related to such issuance in effect as of July 1, 1956, are adhered to:
 - (c) the objectives of subsections (a) and (b) of this section relate to vehicles or combinations of vehicles in regular operation, and the authority of any participating jurisdiction to issue special permits for the movement of any vehicle or combinations of vehicles having dimensions and/or weights in excess of the maximum statutory limits in each participating jurisdiction will not be affected;
 - (d) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to facilitate and expedite the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions under the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and to that end the participating jurisdictions hereby agree, through their designated representatives, to meet and cooperate in the consideration of vehicle size and weight related matters including but not limited to the development of uniform enforcement procedures; additional vehicle size and weight

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standards; operational standards; agreements or compacts to facilitate regional application and administration of vehicle size and weight standards; uniform permit procedures; uniform application forms; rules for the operation of vehicles, including equipment requirements, driver qualifications, and operating practices; and such other matters as may be pertinent;

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- (e) in recognition of the limited prospects of federal revision of section 127, Title 23, U.S. Code, and in order to protect participating jurisdictions against any possibility of withholding or forfeiture of federal-aid highway funds, it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to secure congressional approval of this agreement and specifically of the vehicle size and weight standards set forth in subsection (a) of this section;
- (f) In recognition of desire for a degree of national uniformity of size and weight regulations, it is the further objective to encourage development of broad, uniform size and weight standards on a national basis and further that procedures adopted under this agreement be compatible with national standards.
- 23 Article VI. Entry into Force and Withdrawal
 24 Section 1. This agreement shall enter into force when
 25 enacted into law by any two or more jurisdictions.

Thereafter, this agreement shall become effective as to any other jurisdiction upon its enactment thereof, except as otherwise provided in section 8, Article III.

Section 2. Any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this agreement by canceling the same but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 30 days after the designated representative of the withdrawing jurisdiction has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to all other participating jurisdictions.

Article VII. Construction and Severability

Section 1. This agreement shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof.

13 Section 2. The provisions of this agreement shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision 14 15 of this agreement is declared to be contrary to the 16 constitution of any participating jurisdiction or 17 applicability thereto to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder 18 of this agreement shall not be affected thereby. If this 19 20 agreement shall be held contrary to the constitution of any jurisdiction participating herein, the agreement shall 21 remain in full force and effect as to the jurisdictions 22 23 affected as to all severable matters.

24 Article VIII. Filing of Documents
25 Section 1. A copy of this agreement, its amendments.

HB GB1

and rules promulgated thereunder and interpretations thereof shall be filed in the highway department in each participating jurisdiction and shall be made available for review by interested parties.

 Article IX. Existing Statutes Not Repealed

Section 1. All existing statutes prescribing weight and size standards and all existing statutes relating to special permits shall continue to be of force and effect until amended or repealed by law.

Article X. State Government Departments

Authorized to Cooperate With Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Within appropriations available therefor, the departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state shall cooperate with and assist the cooperating committee within the scope contemplated by Article IV. sections 1(a) and 1(b) of the agreement. The departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state are authorized generally to cooperate with said cooperating committee.

-End-

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ADOPTING THE MULTISTATE

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT.

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Section 1. Findings. The participating jurisdictions find that:

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vehicle size and weight standards will result in a reduction of pollution, congestion, fuel consumption, and related transportation costs, which are necessary to permit increased productivity;

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- (c) promote uniformity among participating jurisdictions in vehicle size and weight standards on the basis of the objectives set forth in this agreement;
- (d) secure uniformity, insofar as possible, of administrative procedures in the enforcement of recommended vehicle size and weight standards;
- (e) provide means for the encouragement and utilization of research that will facilitate the achievement of the foregoing purposes, with due regard for the findings set forth in section 1 of this article.

14 Article II. Definitions

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24 Section 6. Amendment. This agreement may be amended by 25 unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions.

- acting through the officials thereof authorized to enter into this agreement, subject to the requirements of section 4, Article III. Any amendment shall be placed in writing and become a part hereof.
 - Section 7. Restrictions, conditions, or limitations.

 Any jurisdiction entering this agreement shall provide each other participating jurisdiction with a list of any restriction, condition, or limitation on the general terms of this agreement, if any.
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- Section 1. Pursuant to section 2, Article III, the designated representatives of the participating jurisdictions shall constitute a committee that shall have the power to:
 - (a) collect, correlate, analyze, and evaluate information resulting or derivable from research and testing activities in relation to vehicle size and weight related matters;
 - (b) recommend and encourage the undertaking of research and testing in any aspect of vehicle size and weight or related matter when, in their collective judgment, appropriate or sufficient research or testing has not been

undertaken;

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- 2 (c) recommend changes in law or policy with emphasis
 3 on compatibility of laws and uniformity of administrative
 4 rules that would promote effective governmental action or
 5 coordination in the field of vehicle size and weight related
 6 matters.
- 7 Section 2. Each participating jurisdiction shall be 8 entitled to one vote only. No action of the committee shall 9 be binding unless a majority of the total number of votes 10 cast by participating jurisdictions are in favor thereof.
- Section 3. The committee shall meet at least once annually and shall elect, from among its members, a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary.
 - Section 4. The committee shall submit annually to the legislature of each participating jurisdiction, no later than November 1, a report setting forth the work of the committee during the preceding year and including recommendations developed by the committee. The committee may submit such additional reports as it considers appropriate or desirable. Copies of all such reports shall be made available to the transportation committee of the western conference, council of state governments, and to the western association of state highway and transportation officials.
 - Article V. Objectives of the

Participating Jurisdictions

Section 1. Objectives. The participating jurisdictions hereby declare that:

- (a) it is the objective of the participating jurisdictions to obtain more efficient and more economical transportation by motor vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions by encouraging the adoption of standards that will, as minimums, allow the operation on all state highways, except those determined through engineering evaluation to be inadequate, with a single-axle weight not in excess of 20,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight not in excess of 34,000 pounds, and a gross vehicle or combination weight not in excess of that resulting from application of the formula:
- W = 500((LN/N 1) + 12N + 36)

- where W = maximum weight in pounds carried on any group of two or computed to nearest 500 pounds;
- - N = number of axles in group under consideration;
 - (b) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions that in the event the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles according to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section would result in withholding or forfeiture of federal-aid funds pursuant to section 127.

- Title 23, U.S. Code, the operation of such vehicle or combination of vehicles at axle and gross weights within the limits set forth in subsection (a) of this section will be authorized under special permit authority by each participating jurisdiction that could legally issue such permits prior to July 1, 1956, provided all regulations and procedures related to such issuance in effect as of July 1, 1956, are adhered to;
 - (c) the objectives of subsections (a) and (b) of this section relate to vehicles or combinations of vehicles in regular operation, and the authority of any participating jurisdiction to issue special permits for the movement of any vehicle or combinations of vehicles having dimensions and/or weights in excess of the maximum statutory limits in each participating jurisdiction will not be affected;
- (d) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to facilitate and expedite the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions under the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and to that end the participating jurisdictions hereby agree, through their designated representatives, to meet and cooperate in the consideration of vehicle size and weight related matters including but not limited to the development of uniform enforcement procedures; additional vehicle size and weight

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standards; operational standards; agreements or compacts to
facilitate regional application and administration of
vehicle size and weight standards; uniform permit
procedures; uniform application forms; rules for the
operation of vehicles, including equipment requirements,
driver qualifications, and operating practices; and such
other matters as may be pertinent;

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- (e) in recognition of the limited prospects of federal revision of section 127, Title 23, U.S. Code, and in order to protect participating jurisdictions against any possibility of withholding or forfeiture of federal-aid highway funds, it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to secure congressional approval of this agreement and specifically of the vehicle size and weight standards set forth in subsection (a) of this section;
- (f) in recognition of desire for a degree of national uniformity of size and weight regulations, it is the further objective to encourage development of broad, uniform size and weight standards on a national basis and further that procedures adopted under this agreement be compatible with national standards.
- 23 Article VI. Entry into Force and Withdrawal

 24 Section 1. This agreement shall enter into force when

 25 enacted into law by any two or more jurisdictions.

1 Thereafter, this agreement shall become effective as to any 2 other jurisdiction upon its enactment thereof, except as 3 otherwise provided in section 8, Article III.

Section 2. Any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this agreement by canceling the same but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 30 days after the designated representative of the withdrawing jurisdiction has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to all other participating jurisdictions.

10 Article VII. Construction and Severability

11 Section 1. This agreement shall be liberally construed 12 so as to effectuate the purposes thereof.

Section 2. The provisions of this agreement shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this agreement is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating jurisdiction or the applicability thereto to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this agreement shall not be affected thereby. If this agreement shall be held contrary to the constitution of any jurisdiction participating herein, the agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the jurisdictions affected as to all severable matters.

24 Article VIII. Filing of Documents

25 Section 1. A copy of this agreement, its amendments,

and rules promulgated thereunder and interpretations thereof shall be filed in the highway department in each participating jurisdiction and shall be made available for review by interested parties.

Article IX. Existing Statutes Not Repealed

Section 1. All existing statutes prescribing weight and size standards and all existing statutes relating to special permits shall continue to be of force and effect until amended or repealed by law.

Article X. State Government Departments

Authorized to Cooperate With Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Within appropriations available therefor, the departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state shall cooperate with and assist the cooperating committee within the scope contemplated by Article IV, sections 1(a) and 1(b) of the agreement. The departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state are authorized generally to cooperate with said cooperating committee.

-End-

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 681
2	INTRODUCED BY SIVERTSEN+ KEYSER+ MARKS+ GRAHAM+
3	KROPP: MENAHAN
4	
5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ADOPTING THE MULTISTATE
6	HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT."
7	
8	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
9	Section 1. Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement
10	enactment and text. The Multistate Highway Transportation
11	Agreement is hereby enacted into law and entered into with
12	all other jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form
13	substantially as follows:
14	MULTISTATE HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT
15	Pursuant to and in conformity with the laws of their
16	respective jurisdictions, the participating jurisdictions.
17	acting by and through their officials lawfully authorized to
18	execute this agreement, do mutually agree as follows:
19	Article I. Findings and Purposes
20	Section 1. Findings. The participating jurisdictions
21	find that:
22	(a) the expanding regional economy depends on
23	expanding transportation capacity;
24	(b) highway transportation is the major mode for

movement of people and goods in the western states;

(c) uniform application in the West of more adequat	Œ
vehicle size and weight standards will result in a reduction	רוכ
of pollution, congestion, fuel consumption, and relate	2 C
transportation costs, which are necessary to permi	t
increased productivity;	

- 6 (d) a number of western states, already having adopted
 7 substantially the 1964 bureau of public roads recommended
 8 vehicle size and weight standards, still find current
 9 federal limits more restrictive;
- (e) the 1974 revision of federal law (23 U.S.C. 127)
 did not contain any substantial improvements for vehicle
 size and weight standards in the western states and deprives
 states of interstate matching money if vehicle weights and
 widths are increased, even though the interstate system is
 nearly 92% complete; and
- 16 (f) the participating jurisdictions are most capable
 17 of developing vehicle size and weight standards most
 18 appropriate for the regional economy and transportation
 19 requirements, consistent with and in recognition of
 20 principles of highway safety.
- 21 Section 2. Purposes. The purposes of this agreement 22 are to:
- 23 (a) adhere to the principle that each participating 24 jurisdiction should have the freedom to develop vehicle size 25 and weight standards that it determines to be most

appropriate to its economy and highway system;

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- (b) establish a system authorizing the operation of vehicles traveling between two or more participating jurisdictions at more adequate size and weight standards;
- (c) promote uniformity among participating jurisdictions in vehicle size and weight standards on the basis of the objectives set forth in this agreement;
- (d) secure uniformity, insofar as possible, of administrative procedures in the enforcement of recommended vehicle size and weight standards;
- (e) provide means for the encouragement and utilization of research that will facilitate the achievement of the foregoing purposes, with due regard for the findings set forth in section 1 of this article.
- 15 Article II. Definitions
 - Section 1. As used in this agreement:
 - (a) "designated representative" means a legislator or other person authorized to represent the jurisdiction:
- (b) "jurisdiction" means a state of the United Statesor the District of Columbia;
 - (c) "vehicle" means any vehicle as defined by statute to be subject to size and weight standards that operates in two or more participating jurisdictions.
- 24 Article III. General Provisions
- 25 Section 1. Qualifications for membership.

Participation in this agreement is open to jurisdictions
that subscribe to the findings, purposes, and objectives of
this agreement and will seek legislation necessary to

accomplish these objectives.

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Section 2. Cooperation. The participating jurisdictions, working through their designated representatives, shall cooperate and assist each other in achieving the desired goals of this agreement pursuant to appropriate statutory authority.

Section 3. Effect of headings. Article and section headings contained herein may not be considered to govern. limit. modify. or in any manner affect the scope. meaning. or intent of the provisions of any article or section hereof.

Section 4. Vehicle laws and regulations. This
agreement does not authorize the operation of a vehicle in
any participating jurisdiction contrary to the laws or
regulations thereof.

Section 5. Interpretation. The final decision regarding interpretation of questions at issue relating to this agreement shall be reached by unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions, acting through the designated representatives. Results of all such actions shall be placed in writing.

25 Section 6. Amendment. This agreement may be amended by

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unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions. acting through the officials thereof authorized to enter into this agreement, subject to the requirements of section 4, Article III. Any amendment shall be placed in writing and become a part hereof.

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Section 7. Restrictions, conditions, or limitations. Any jurisdiction entering this agreement shall provide each other participating jurisdiction with a list of any restriction, condition, or limitation on the general terms of this agreement, if any.

Section 8. Additional jurisdictions. Additional jurisdictions may become members of this agreement by signing and accepting the terms of the agreement.

Article IV. Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Pursuant to section 2, Article III, the designated representatives of the participating jurisdictions shall constitute a committee that shall have the power to:

- (a) collect, correlate, analyze, and evaluate information resulting or derivable from research and testing activities in relation to vehicle size and weight related matters:
- (b) recommend and encourage the undertaking of research and testing in any aspect of vehicle size and weight or related matter when, in their collective judgment,

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appropriate or sufficient research or testing has not been undertaken;

- (c) recommend changes in law or policy with emphasis 3 on compatibility of laws and uniformity of administrative rules that would promote effective governmental action or coordination in the field of vehicle size and weight related 7 matters.
- Section 2. Each participating jurisdiction shall be entitled to one vote only. No action of the committee shall be binding unless a majority of the total number of votes 10 11 cast by participating jurisdictions are in favor thereof.
- Section 3. The committee shall meet at least once 12 13 annually and shall elect. from among its members, a 14 chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary.
- Section 4. The committee shall submit annually to the 15 legislature of each participating jurisdiction, no later 16 17 than November 1, a report setting forth the work of the committee during the preceding year and including 18 19 recommendations developed by the committee. The committee 20 may submit such additional reports as it considers 21 appropriate or desirable. Copies of all such reports shall 22 be made available to the transportation committee of the 23 western conference, council of state governments, and to the 24 western association of state highway and transportation officials. 25

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1	Artitle V. Objectives of the
2	Participating Jurisdictions
3	Section 1. Objectives. The participating jurisdictions
4	hereby declare that:
5	(a) it is the objective of the participating
6	jurisdictions to obtain more efficient and more economical
7	transportation by motor vehicles between and among the
8	participating jurisdictions by encouraging the adoption of
9	standards that will, as minimums, allow the operation on all
10	state highways, except those determined through engineering
11	evaluation to be inadequate, with a single-axle, weight, not
12	in excess of 20,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight not in
13	excess of 34,000 pounds, and a gross vehicle or combination
14	weight not in excess of that resulting from application of
15	the formula:
16	H = 500((LN/N - 1) + 12N + 36)
17	where $W = -maximum$ weight in pounds carried on any group of
18	two or computed to nearest 500 pounds;
19	L = distance in feet between the extremes of any
20	group of two or more consecutive axles;
21	N = number of axles in group under consideration;
22	(b) it is the further objective of the participating

Analysis of the Contract of the

or forfeiture of federal-aid funds pursuant to section 127.

Title 23, U.S. Code, the operation of such vehicle or combination of vehicles at axle and gross weights within the limits set forth in subsection (a) of this section will be authorized under special permit authority by each participating jurisdiction that could legally issue such permits prior to July 1, 1956, provided all regulations and procedures related to such issuance in effect as of July 1, 1956, are adhered to:

- (c) the objectives of subsections (a) and (b) of this section relate to vehicles or combinations of vehicles in regular operation, and the authority of any participating jurisdiction to issue special permits for the movement of any vehicle or combinations of vehicles having dimensions and/or weights in excess of the maximum statutory limits in each participating jurisdiction will not be affected;
- (d) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to facilitate and expedite the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions under the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and to that end the participating jurisdictions hereby agree, through their designated representatives, to meet and cooperate in the consideration of vehicle size and weight related matters including but not limited to the development of uniform

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jurisdictions that in the event the operation of a vehicle

or combination of vehicles according to the provisions of

subsection (a) of this section would result in withholding

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enforcement procedures; additional vehicle size and weight standards; operational standards; agreements or compacts to facilitate regional application and administration of vehicle size and weight standards; uniform permit procedures; uniform application forms; rules for the operation of vehicles, including equipment requirements, driver qualifications, and operating practices; and such other matters as may be pertinent;

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- (e) in recognition of the limited prospects of federal revision of section 127. Title 23. U.S. Code. and in order to protect participating jurisdictions against any possibility of withholding or forfeiture of federal-aid highway funds. it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to secure congressional approval of this agreement and specifically of the vehicle size and weight standards set forth in subsection (a) of this section:
- (f) in recognition of desire for a degree of national uniformity of size and weight regulations, it is the further objective to encourage development of broad, uniform size and weight standards on a national basis and further that procedures adopted under this agreement be compatible with national standards.
- Article VI. Entry into Force and Withdrawal

 Section 1. This agreement shall enter into force when

- 1 enacted into law by any two or more jurisdictions.
- 2 Thereafter, this agreement shall become effective as to any
- 3 other jurisdiction upon its enactment thereof, except as
- 4 otherwise provided in section 8. Article III.
- Section 2. Any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this agreement by canceling the same but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 30 days after the designated representative of the withdrawing jurisdiction has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to all other participating jurisdictions.
- 11 Article VII. Construction and Severability
- 12 Section 1. This agreement shall be liberally construed 13 so as to effectuate the purposes thereof.
- 14 Section 2. The provisions of this agreement shall be 15 severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision 16 of this agreement is declared to be contrary to the 17 constitution of any participating jurisdiction or the applicability thereto to any government, agency, person, or 18 19 circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder 20 of this agreement shall not be affected thereby. If this agreement shall be held contrary to the constitution of any 21 22 jurisdiction participating herein, the agreement shall remain in full force and effect as to the jurisdictions 23 affected as to all severable matters. 24
 - Article VIII. Filing of Documents

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Section 1. A copy of this agreement, its amendments, and rules promulgated thereunder and interpretations thereof shall be filed in the highway department in each participating jurisdiction and shall be made available for review by interested parties.

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 Article IX. Existing Statutes Not Repealed

Section 1. All existing statutes prescribing weight and size standards and all existing statutes relating to special permits shall continue to be of force and effect until amended or repealed by law.

Article X. State Government Departments

Authorized to Cooperate With Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Within appropriations available therefor, the departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state shall cooperate with and assist the cooperating committee within the scope contemplated by Article IV, sections 1(a) and 1(b) of the agreement. The departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state are authorized generally to cooperate with said cooperating committee.

-End-