

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3473

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit limitations on certain grants due to standards for covered farm vehicles and drivers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit limitations on certain grants due to standards for covered farm vehicles and drivers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Local Farm Vehicle
5 Flexibility Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO STATES.**

7 Chapter 311 of title 49, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in section 31101—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),
2 and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respec-
3 tively; and

4 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
5 following:

6 “(2) ‘covered farm vehicle’ means a motor vehi-
7 cle (including an articulated motor vehicle)—

8 “(A) that—

9 “(i) is registered or otherwise des-
10 ignated by the State for use in, or trans-
11 portation activities related to, the oper-
12 ation of farms;

13 “(ii) is equipped with a special reg-
14 istration plate or other State-issued des-
15 ignation to allow for identification of the
16 vehicle as a farm vehicle by law enforce-
17 ment personnel;

18 “(iii) is traveling in the State of reg-
19 istration or designation or in another
20 State;

21 “(iv) is operated by—

22 “(I) a farm owner or operator;

23 “(II) a ranch owner or operator;

24 or

1 “(III) an employee or family
2 member of an individual specified in
3 subclause (I) or (II);

4 “(v) is transporting to or from a farm
5 or ranch—

6 “(I) agricultural commodities;

7 “(II) livestock;

8 “(III) agricultural supplies; or

9 “(IV) machinery, including ma-
10 chinery being transported for the pur-
11 pose of performance of agricultural
12 production activity or for the purpose
13 of servicing or repairing the item
14 being transported;

15 “(vi) is not used in the operations of
16 a for-hire motor carrier;

17 “(vii) has a gross vehicle weight rat-
18 ing or gross vehicle weight, whichever is
19 greater, that is—

20 “(I) 26,001 pounds or less; or

21 “(II) greater than 26,001 pounds
22 and is traveling within the State of
23 registration or designation or within
24 150 air miles of the farm or ranch

1 with respect to which the vehicle is
2 being operated; and

3 “(viii) is not transporting materials
4 that require a placard; or

5 “(B) that—

6 “(i) meets the requirements under
7 subparagraph (A) (other than clause (vi)
8 of such subparagraph);

9 “(ii) is operated pursuant to a crop
10 share farm lease agreement;

11 “(iii) is owned by a tenant with re-
12 spect to that agreement; and

13 “(iv) is transporting the landlord’s
14 portion of the crops under that agree-
15 ment.”; and

16 (2) in section 31102—

17 (A) in subsection (b)(2)(E), by striking the
18 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

19 (B) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
20 section (f); and

21 (C) by inserting after subsection (d) the
22 following:

23 “(e) LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY; STATE STANDARDS
24 FOR COVERED FARM VEHICLES AND DRIVERS.—The Sec-
25 retary may not terminate, reduce, limit, or otherwise inter-

1 fere with the amount or timing of grants that a State is
2 otherwise eligible to receive under this title or title 23 as
3 a result of any minimum standard or exemption provided
4 by the State for a covered farm vehicle or the driver of
5 such vehicle that is less stringent than the requirements
6 for commercial motor vehicles and drivers established
7 under title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, including re-
8 quirements pertaining to—

9 “(1) controlled substances and alcohol use and
10 testing;

11 “(2) commercial driver’s licensing;

12 “(3) driver qualifications;

13 “(4) medical certifications;

14 “(5) driving and operating commercial vehicles;

15 “(6) parts and accessories for the safe oper-
16 ation of commercial vehicles;

17 “(7) the maximum hours of service of drivers;

18 “(8) vehicle inspection repair and maintenance;

19 “(9) employee safety and health standards; and

20 “(10) recordkeeping related to compliance with
21 such standards.”.

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