

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an axle weight variance for certain commercial motor vehicles transporting dry bulk goods, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an axle weight variance for certain commercial motor vehicles transporting dry bulk goods, 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 “Vehicle Axle Redis-  
5       tribution Increases Allow New Capacities for Efficiency  
6       Act” or the “VARIANCE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AXLE WEIGHT VARIANCE FOR THE TRANSPOR-**  
2 **TATION OF DRY BULK GOODS.**

3 Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(z) AXLE WEIGHT VARIANCE FOR THE TRANSPOR-  
6 TATION OF DRY BULK GOODS.—

7 “(1) DEFINITION OF DRY BULK GOODS.—In  
8 this subsection, the term ‘dry bulk goods’ means a  
9 homogeneous, unmarked, unpackaged, nonliquid  
10 cargo being transported in a trailer specifically de-  
11 signed for that purpose.

12 “(2) WEIGHT VARIANCE.—Notwithstanding any  
13 other provision of this section, except for the max-  
14 imum gross vehicle weight limitation, a commercial  
15 motor vehicle transporting dry bulk goods may not  
16 exceed 110 percent of the maximum weight on any  
17 axle or axle group described in subsection (a), in-  
18 cluding any enforcement tolerance.”.