

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To: Iowa Legislature**

**From: Iowa Department of Transportation**

**Re: Motor Carrier Fleet Permits, Presidential Disaster Declaration**

**Bill Date: 12/14/2020**

Current federal law 23 U.S.C. §127(i) authorizes states to issue special permits during for overweight vehicles carrying divisible loads of disaster relief supplies on the interstate system during a presidentially declared national emergency that has been declared a major disaster. The Iowa Code does not currently authorize the DOT to issue one special permit to apply to multiple vehicles with overweight divisible loads on the interstate when those vehicles are all operating under the same motor carrier's US DOT number. Rather, the Iowa DOT is currently limited by Iowa Code to only issuing vehicle-specific permits. This process is onerous when the permittee has a large number of vehicles in its fleet and needs to react quickly to a disaster.

This proposal will allow a motor carrier to request a permit for a fleet of vehicles for travel on the interstate system and not have to request permits for each individual vehicle during a Presidential Disaster declaration.