

HOUSE BILL No. 5682

May 26, 1988, Introduced by Reps. Bartnik, Hertel, DeMars, Porreca, Connors, DeBeaussaert, Docherty, Saunders, Maynard, Bennane, Spaniola, Farhat and Perry Bullard and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend section 719 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended
"Michigan vehicle code,"

as amended by Act No. 187 of the Public Acts of 1986, being section 257.719 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Section 719 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of
2 1949, as amended by Act No. 187 of the Public Acts of 1986, being
3 section 257.719 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 719. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a vehi-
6 cle unloaded or with load shall not exceed a height of 13 feet 6
7 inches. The owner of a vehicle which collides with a lawfully
8 established bridge or viaduct shall be liable for all damage and
9 injury resulting from a collision caused by the height of the

1 vehicle, whether the clearance of the bridge or viaduct is posted
2 or not.

3 (2) A truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, or trailer manufac-
4 tured on or after July 27, 1978, shall not be used to transport
5 flammable liquids, in bulk, having a flash point at or below 70
6 degrees Fahrenheit, if the truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, or
7 trailer exceeds 11 feet 8-1/2 inches in height. However, safety
8 equipment and those appurtenances which are required by state
9 law, when added to a vehicle, may cause the vehicle height to
10 exceed 11 feet 8-1/2 inches, but shall not cause the vehicle
11 height to exceed 13 feet 6 inches. A person who violates this
12 subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

13 (3) A vehicle, except a truck tractor, trailer, or semi-
14 trailer, including load, shall not exceed a total length of 40
15 feet. The total length of a semitrailer operating in a truck
16 tractor and semitrailer combination shall not exceed 53 feet,
17 including load. All semitrailers longer than 50 feet shall have
18 a wheelbase of 40.5 feet plus or minus 0.5 feet, measured from
19 the kingpin coupling to the center of the rear axles or to the
20 center of the tandem axle assembly if equipped with 2 axles. A
21 combination of truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or truck
22 and semitrailer or trailer, or a combination of truck tractor and
23 2 semitrailers, including load, shall not exceed a total overall
24 length of 59 feet except as provided for on routes designated and
25 approved by the state transportation department and by local
26 authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction on
27 which a person may operate a combination of a truck tractor,

1 semitrailer, and trailer or a truck tractor and 2 semitrailers
2 with no limit on the overall combination length, if the length of
3 each semitrailer or trailer including load does not exceed 28-1/2
4 feet. A truck tractor and semitrailer combination with a semi-
5 trailer length longer than 50 feet shall not be allowed to oper-
6 ate with more than 2 axles on the semitrailer. All truck tractor
7 and semitrailer combinations with a semitrailer length longer
8 than 50 feet shall travel exclusively on highways designated by
9 the appropriate road authority. City, village, or county author-
10 ities shall have the option of prohibiting stops within their
11 jurisdictions unless the stop occurs along appropriately desig-
12 nated routes, or is necessary for emergency purposes or to reach
13 shippers, receivers, warehouses, and terminals along designated
14 routes. A trailer or semitrailer in actual and lawful use in
15 this state on December 1, 1982, may be operated in this state for
16 the life of the vehicle in a combination with other vehicles in
17 actual and lawful use in this state on December 1, 1982, if the
18 combination was of legal length under the law of this state imme-
19 diately preceding January 24, 1984. In calculating the length of
20 a trailer or semitrailer under this subsection, the length shall
21 be based on the cargo carrying portion of the vehicle only,
22 including load. A truck tractor or other motor vehicle shall not
23 haul more than 1 trailer and 1 semitrailer or more than 2 semi-
24 trailers in combination at any 1 time, except that a farm tractor
25 may haul 2 wagons or trailers or garbage and refuse haulers may,
26 during daylight hours, haul up to 4 trailers for garbage and
27 refuse collection purposes, not exceeding in any combination a

total length of 55 feet at a speed of not to exceed 15 miles per hour. In determining the length of a vehicle or a vehicle combination under this subsection, the length shall not be considered to include safety and energy conservation devices including, but not be limited to, impact absorbing bumpers, rear view mirrors, turn signals lamps, marker lamps, steps and hand holds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mud flaps, or splash and spray suppressant devices; load induced tire bulge; refrigeration or heating units; or air compressors. A device shall be excluded from a determination of length only if it is not designed or used for the carrying of cargo.

(4) If a combination of 2 semitrailers is pulled by a truck or truck tractor, a fifth wheel connecting assembly which conforms with motor carrier safety rules promulgated by the Michigan public service commission pursuant to the motor carrier safety act of 1963, Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1963, as amended, being sections 480.11 to 480.21 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, shall be used on each semitrailer.

(5) A train of vehicles or a vehicle operated alone shall not carry a load extending more than 3 feet beyond the front of the train of vehicles or vehicle.

(6) A motor vehicle, TRUCK, TRUCK TRACTOR, TRUCK TRAILER, POLE TRAILER, trailer, or semitrailer ~~whose frame or body extends more than 36 inches beyond the rear of its rear axle and is more than 42 inches above the roadway~~ shall not be operated on the highways of this state unless equipped with a fender or bumper on the extreme rear of the frame or body. The bumper

1 shall extend downward from the rear of the frame or body to
2 within ~~30~~ 22 inches of the roadway and be of substantial
3 construction.

4 (7) A TRUCK, truck tractor, ~~and~~ TRUCK TRAILER, TRAILER,
5 POLE TRAILER, OR semitrailer ~~combination with a semitrailer~~
6 ~~length longer than 50 feet whose frame or body extends more than~~
7 ~~36 inches beyond the rear of its rear axle and is more than~~
8 ~~42 inches above the roadway~~ shall not be operated on the high-
9 ways of this state unless equipped with an underride guard on the
10 extreme rear of the frame or body. The underride guard shall
11 meet all of the following requirements:

12 (a) Provide a continuous horizontal beam having a maximum
13 ground clearance of 22 inches, as measured with the vehicle empty
14 and on level ground.

15 (b) Extend to within 4 inches of the lateral extremities of
16 the trailer on both left and right sides.

17 (8) A truck tractor and semitrailer combination with a semi-
18 trailer length longer than 50 feet shall not be operated on the
19 highways of this state at the times specified in section 684
20 unless equipped with all of the following lamps and reflectors,
21 in addition to any other lamps and reflectors required under this
22 act:

23 (a) Two side marker lamps which display an amber light, 1 on
24 each side of the semitrailer, located at 1/2 the distance from
25 the front to the rear of the semitrailer.

1 (b) Two reflectors which reflect an amber light, 1 on each
2 side of the semitrailer, located at 1/2 the distance from the
3 front to the rear of the semitrailer.

4 (c) Two clearance lamps, 1 on each side of the semitrailer,
5 located at 1/2 the distance from the front to the rear and as
6 near to the top of the semitrailer as practicable.

7 (9) A lamp required under subsection (8) shall be lighted at
8 the times specified in section 684 and shall be visible when
9 lighted at a distance of 500 feet from the side of the semi-
10 trailer on which it is mounted. A reflector required under sub-
11 section (8) shall be visible at the times specified in section
12 684 from all distances from 50 to 500 feet from the semitrailer
13 when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps.

14 (10) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a
15 person may operate a combination of truck tractor, semitrailer,
16 and trailer, or truck tractor and semitrailer or trailer designed
17 and used exclusively to transport assembled motor vehicles or
18 bodies, recreational vehicles, or boats, which does not exceed a
19 total length of 65 feet. The load on the combination of vehicles
20 may extend an additional 3 feet beyond the front and 4 feet
21 beyond the rear of the combination of vehicles.

22 (11) A combination of vehicles shall not have more than 11
23 axles.

24 (12) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a
25 number of motor vehicles, wholly or partially assembled, may be
26 transported over the highways of this state in combination,
27 utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full mount mechanisms

1 and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the vehicles in
2 combination. The combination shall not exceed the maximum length
3 of 65 feet for the transportation of assembled motor vehicles,
4 and the vehicles in the combination shall be adequately and
5 securely fastened together in compliance with regulations of the
6 state and of any federal agency having jurisdiction over the
7 transportation. If motor vehicles are towed by means of triple
8 saddle mounts, the towed vehicles shall have brakes acting on all
9 wheels which are in contact with the roadway. A combination
10 exceeding 55 feet in length may be operated only on highways and
11 routes approved and designated for that operation by the state
12 transportation department and by local authorities with respect
13 to highways under their jurisdiction.

14 (13) The total gross weight of a truck tractor, semitrailer,
15 and trailer combination or a truck tractor and 2 semitrailers
16 combination which exceeds 59 feet in length shall not exceed a
17 ratio of 400 pounds per engine net horsepower delivered to clutch
18 or its equivalent specified in the SAE handbook published by the
19 society of automotive engineers, inc., (1977).

20 (14) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person who vio-
21 lates this section is responsible for a civil infraction. The
22 owner of the vehicle may be charged with a violation of this
23 section.