



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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TRUCKS HAULING FIFTH WHEEL TRAILER

**RECEIVED**  
**APR 17 1989**

House Bill 4357

Sponsor: Rep. John D. Pridemore  
Committee: Transportation

Michigan State Law Library

Complete to 3-29-89

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4357 AS INTRODUCED 3-7-89**

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to prohibit pickup trucks from driving on highways pulling more than one vehicle or trailer unless the pickup truck and the additional vehicle met certain specifications. Pickup trucks attached with semitrailers designed for recreational living purposes could tow additional trailers or semitrailers if the pickup trucks weighed at least 8,500 pounds and were equipped with a fifth wheel assembly which conformed with motor carrier safety rules. (The "fifth wheel assembly" is a piece of metal located on the bed of pickup trucks which is attached to a metal arm originating from the vehicle being towed and which serves as a secure pivot point for both vehicles during a turn.) However, the additional trailer or semitrailer would have to be attached according to specifications in the act and safety chains used to secure the vehicle would have to be attached at the extreme outer edge of the additional semitrailer with a locking mechanism. In addition, the towing vehicle hitch would have to be of substantial material and would have to be attached in a proper and skillful manner to the frame of the towing vehicle. Also, the total length of the pickup truck, semitrailer designed for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer or semitrailer could not exceed 59 feet and the gross weight of the additional vehicle could not exceed the weight of the pickup truck or the weight of the semitrailer.

Under the bill, any vehicle towing a trailer or another vehicle would have to be attached in such a manner so that when the combination was operated in a straight line on a level, smooth, paved surface, the movement of the towed vehicle or trailer could not deviate more than three inches to either side of the path of the vehicle that towed it. This provision would replace language requiring that a vehicle being towed be attached in such a way as to prevent it from being deflected more than six inches from the path of the towing vehicle's wheels.

MCL 257.721

House Bill 4357 (3-29-89)