

HOUSE BILL No. 5404

December 12, 1991, Introduced by Reps. Palamara, Porreca, Yokich, DeMars, Perry Bullard, Griffin, Leland, Barns, Berman, Johnson, Ostling, Middaugh, Bobier, Strand, Nye, Richard A. Young, Jacobetti, Bennane and Jonker and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend section 722 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended

"Michigan vehicle code,"

as amended by Act No. 346 of the Public Acts of 1988, being section 257.722 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Section 722 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of
2 1949, as amended by Act No. 346 of the Public Acts of 1988, being
3 section 257.722 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 722. (1) The maximum axle load shall not exceed the
6 number of pounds designated in the following provisions which
7 prescribe the distance between axles:

1 (a) When the axle spacing is 9 feet or more between axles,
2 the maximum axle load shall not exceed 18,000 pounds for vehicles
3 equipped with high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.

4 (b) When the axle spacing is less than 9 feet between 2
5 axles but more than 3-1/2 feet, the maximum axle load shall not
6 exceed 13,000 pounds for high pressure pneumatic or balloon
7 tires.

8 (c) When axles are spaced less than 3-1/2 feet apart, the
9 maximum axle load shall not exceed 9,000 pounds per axle.

10 (d) Subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) shall be known as the
11 normal loading maximum.

12 (2) When normal loading is in effect, the state transporta-
13 tion department and local authorities with respect to highways
14 under their jurisdiction may designate certain highways, or sec-
15 tions of those highways, where bridges and road surfaces are ade-
16 quate for heavier loading, which designation may be revised as
17 needed, on which the maximum tandem axle assembly loading shall
18 not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there
19 is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

20 (3) Except as provided in subsection ~~-(8)-~~ (9), on a legal
21 combination of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be
22 permitted on the designated highways at the gross permissible
23 weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle
24 within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem
25 axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross
26 weight of 13,000 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight
27 of a combination of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280

1 pounds, 2 tandem axle assemblies shall be permitted on the
2 designated highways at a gross permissible weight of 16,000
3 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any
4 axle of the assembly.

5 (4) VEHICLES SUBJECT TO THE MAXIMUM AXLE LOADS OF SUBSEC-
6 TIONS (1), (2), AND (3) SHALL NOT EXCEED THE FOLLOWING GROSS
7 VEHICLE WEIGHT FOR THE PERIOD INDICATED:

8 (A) 146,000 POUNDS BEGINNING APRIL 1, 1993 AND THROUGH
9 MARCH 31, 1994.

10 (B) 128,000 POUNDS FROM APRIL 1, 1994 THROUGH MARCH 31,
11 1995.

12 (C) 110,000 POUNDS ON AND AFTER APRIL 1, 1995.

13 (5) ~~(4)~~ The normal size of tires shall be the rated size
14 as published by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load
15 permissible for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of
16 width of tire.

17 (6) ~~(5)~~ During the months of March, April, and May in each
18 year, the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements, or
19 pavements with a concrete base, shall be reduced by 25% from the
20 maximum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum
21 axle loads allowable on all other types of roads during these
22 months shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as
23 specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds
24 per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450
25 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the
26 period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect.

1 (7) ~~-(6)-~~ The state transportation department, or a local
2 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may
3 suspend the restrictions imposed by this section when and where,
4 in its discretion, conditions of the highways or the public
5 health, safety, and welfare so warrant, and may impose the
6 restricted loading requirements of this section on designated
7 highways at any other time that the conditions of the highway may
8 require.

9 (8) ~~-(7)-~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the
10 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-
11 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing indi-
12 vidual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the
13 axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the gross
14 axle weight shall be determined by weighing individual axles or
15 by weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross weight of the
16 group of axles by the number of axles in the group. Pursuant to
17 subsection ~~-(8)-~~ (9), the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or
18 more axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or
19 several axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group
20 shall be the overall gross weight of the group.

21 (9) ~~-(8)-~~ The loading maximum in this subsection shall apply
22 to interstate highways, and the state transportation department,
23 or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdic-
24 tion, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the
25 operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more
26 than 80,000 pounds which are subject to the following load
27 maximums:

1 (a) Twenty thousand pounds on any 1 axle, including all
2 enforcement tolerances.

3 (b) A tandem axle weight of 34,000 pounds including all
4 enforcement tolerances.

5 (c) An overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
6 tive axles equaling:

$$7 \quad W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right) /$$

8
9 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
10 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet
11 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,
12 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except
13 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of
14 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive
15 sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross
16 vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all
17 enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semi-
18 trailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles,
19 vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in
20 excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by application of
21 the formula in this subsection shall be subject to the maximum
22 axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3) AND THE MAXIMUM GROSS
23 VEHICLE WEIGHT REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION (4). As used in this
24 subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmit-
25 ted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the centers of
26 which may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes

1 spaced more than 40 inches, but not more than 96 inches, apart,
2 extending across the full width of the vehicle.