

# HOUSE BILL No. 6091

September 17, 1992, Introduced by Reps. Baade, Dobronski, Hertel, Byrum, Olshove, Leland, DeBeaussaert, Kosteva and Pitoniak 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 AND COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS  
14 with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may designate  
15 certain highways, or sections of those highways, where bridges  
16 and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, which desig-  
17 nation may be revised as needed, on which the maximum tandem axle  
18 assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle of  
19 the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle  
20 of the assembly.

21 (3) Except as provided in subsection (8), on a legal combi-  
22 nation of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be permit-  
23 ted on the designated highways at the gross permissible weight of  
24 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet  
25 of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem axle assembly  
26 in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross weight of 13,000  
27 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight of a combination

1 of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280 pounds, 2 tandem  
2 axle assemblies shall be permitted on the designated highways at  
3 a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is  
4 no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

5 (4) The normal size of tires shall be the rated size as pub-  
6 lished by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load permissi-  
7 ble for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of width  
8 of tire.

9 (5) During the months of March, April, and May in each year,  
10 the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements, or pave-  
11 ments with a concrete base, shall be reduced by 25% from the max-  
12 imum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle  
13 loads allowable on all other types of roads during these months  
14 shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as  
15 specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds  
16 per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450  
17 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the  
18 period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect.

19 (6) The state transportation department, or a local author-  
20 ity OR COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION with respect to highways under  
21 ~~its~~ THEIR jurisdiction, may suspend the restrictions imposed by  
22 this section when and where, in ~~its~~ THEIR discretion, condi-  
23 tions of the highways or the public health, safety, and welfare  
24 so warrant, and may impose the restricted loading requirements of  
25 this section on designated highways at any other time that the  
26 conditions of the highway may require.

(7) For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combination of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing individual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the gross axle weight shall be determined by weighing individual axles or by weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross weight of the group of axles by the number of axles in the group. Pursuant to subsection (8), the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or several axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group shall be the overall gross weight of the group.

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

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

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

(c) An overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles equaling:

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

1 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more  
2 consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet  
3 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,  
4 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except  
5 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of  
6 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive  
7 sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross  
8 vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all  
9 enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semi-  
10 trailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles,  
11 vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in  
12 excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by application of  
13 the formula in this subsection shall be subject to the maximum  
14 axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in this  
15 subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmit-  
16 ted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the centers of  
17 which may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes  
18 spaced more than 40 inches, but not more than 96 inches, apart,  
19 extending across the full width of the vehicle.