

# SENATE BILL No. 50

February 5, 1991, Introduced by Senator BARCIA and referred to the Committee on State Affairs and Military/Veteran Affairs.

A bill to amend section 721 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended

"Michigan vehicle code,"

as amended by Act No. 75 of the Public Acts of 1990, being section 257.721 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Section 1. Section 721 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of  
2 1949, as amended by Act No. 75 of the Public Acts of 1990, being  
3 section 257.721 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read  
4 as follows:

5       Sec. 721. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection  
6 (5), a passenger vehicle or a pickup truck shall not be driven  
7 upon a highway drawing or having attached to the passenger  
8 vehicle or pickup truck more than 1 vehicle or trailer.

1       (2) The drawbar or other connection between 2 vehicles, 1 of  
2 which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall not  
3 exceed 15 feet in length from 1 vehicle to the other. If the  
4 connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be  
5 displayed upon the connection a red flag or other signal or cloth  
6 not less than 12 inches both in length and width.

7       (3) A vehicle or trailer towed or drawn by a vehicle shall  
8 be attached to the vehicle with forms of coupling devices in a  
9 manner so that when the combination is operated in a linear  
10 alignment on a level, smooth, paved surface, the movement of the  
11 towed or drawn vehicle or trailer does not deviate more than  
12 3 inches to either side of the path of the towing vehicle that  
13 tows or draws it. The vehicle or trailer shall also be connected  
14 to the towing vehicle, by suitable safety chains or devices, 1 on  
15 each side of the coupling ~~and at the extreme outer edge of the~~  
16 ~~vehicle or trailer~~ and each chain or device and connection used  
17 shall be of sufficient strength to haul the vehicle or trailer  
18 when loaded.

19       (4) A pickup truck with a fifth wheel assembly shall not tow  
20 a semitrailer unless the fifth wheel assembly conforms to motor  
21 carrier safety rule R 460.16442 of the Michigan administrative  
22 code.

23       (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pickup truck with a  
24 towing rating equal to, or greater than, the weight being towed,  
25 equipped with a fifth wheel assembly which conforms with motor  
26 carrier safety rules promulgated by the department of state  
27 police pursuant to the motor carrier safety act of 1963, Act

1 No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1963, being sections 480.11 to  
2 480.21 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, towing attached with a  
3 semitrailer designed for recreational living purposes may tow an  
4 additional trailer or semitrailer under ANY OF the following  
5 conditions:

6 (a) The additional trailer or semitrailer shall be attached  
7 pursuant to subsection (3). The safety chains described in  
8 subsection (3) shall be securely attached ~~at the extreme outer~~  
9 ~~edge of the attached~~ TO THE trailer or semitrailer with a lock-  
10 ing mechanism. The towing vehicle hitch shall be of substantial  
11 material and shall be attached in a proper and skillful manner to  
12 the frame of the towing vehicle.

13 (b) The total length of the pickup truck, semitrailer  
14 designed for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer  
15 or semitrailer shall not exceed ~~59~~ 65 feet.

16 (c) The gross weight of the additional trailer or semi-  
17 trailer towed or drawn shall not exceed the empty weight of the  
18 pickup truck or the empty weight of the semitrailer.

19 (6) For the purposes of this section, a pickup truck towing  
20 a semitrailer and additional trailer shall be considered a pas-  
21 senger vehicle and shall comply with the speed limit requirements  
22 of section 627(5).

23 (7) The office of highway safety and planning shall compile  
24 a study and report to the legislature within 2 years after ~~the~~  
25 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection~~  
26 MAY 17, 1990, with respect to the effect on highway safety of the  
27 changes made in towing requirements for pickup trucks with fifth

1 wheel assemblies and additional trailers by the amendatory act  
2 that added this subsection.

3       (8) A person who violates this section is responsible for a  
4 civil infraction.