

---

Senate Fiscal Agency  
P. O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

**SFA****BILL ANALYSIS**

Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
Fax: (517) 373-1986  
TDD: (517) 373-0543

---

Senate Bill 816 (Substitute S-1 as reported)  
Sponsor: Senator Leon Stille  
Committee: Agriculture and Forestry

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to increase the scope of the weight restriction on designated highways or interstate highways for the transportation of agricultural products, and to allow exemptions for agricultural products haulers (rather than just milk haulers) from seasonal weight restrictions on State and county roads.

Currently, the Code limits the amount of weight that may be transported by trucks over Michigan roadways, based on the distance between the axles. The loading maximum applies to interstate highways, and the State Department of Transportation, for roads under its jurisdiction, may designate a highway, or a section of it, for the operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of up to 80,000 pounds that are subject to certain load maximums. The bill specifies, however, that the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirements would apply for a distance of up to 10 miles from a designated highway or interstate highway for the purpose of pickup or delivery of an agricultural commodity.

The bill also would require the State Department of Transportation, for roads under its jurisdiction, and a county road commission, for roads under its jurisdiction, to grant exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions only for the hauling of agricultural commodities on specified routes when requested in writing. Currently, the Code permits the Department and county road commissions to exempt milk hauling.

Under the Code, upon receiving a written application and for a good cause shown, the Transportation Department and county road commissions may grant an exemption from seasonal weight restrictions for milk on specified routes. Approval or denial of a request must be given by written notice to the applicant within 30 days after the application is submitted. The bill would delete these provisions.

The bill would define "agricultural commodities" to mean "farm products" as defined in Section 2 of the Michigan Right to Farm Act (MCL 286.472), fertilizer, farm equipment, and fuel. Agricultural commodities, however, would not include trees and timber.

MCL 257.722

Legislative Analyst: N. Nagata

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 12-10-97

Fiscal Analyst: P. Alderfer

[floor/sb816](#)

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.