

SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 816

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 722 (MCL 257.722), as amended by 1993 PA 22.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 722. (1) The maximum axle load shall not exceed the  
2 number of pounds designated in the following provisions ~~which~~  
3 THAT prescribe the distance between axles:

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

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

**SB 816, As Passed Senate, January 29, 1998**

Senate Bill No. 816

2

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

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

6 (2) When normal loading is in effect, the state transporta-  
7 tion department, ~~and~~ OR A local ~~authorities~~ AUTHORITY with  
8 respect to highways under ~~their~~ ITS jurisdiction, may designate  
9 certain highways, or sections of those highways, where bridges  
10 and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, ~~which~~ AND  
11 REVISE A designation ~~may be revised~~ as needed, on which the  
12 maximum tandem axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000  
13 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there is no other axle  
14 within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

15 (3) Except as provided in subsection ~~(8)~~ (9), on a legal  
16 combination of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be  
17 permitted on the designated highways at the gross permissible  
18 weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle  
19 within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem  
20 axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross  
21 weight of 13,000 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight  
22 of a combination of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280  
23 pounds, 2 tandem axle assemblies shall be permitted on the desig-  
24 nated highways at a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per  
25 axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the  
26 assembly. HOWEVER, THE LOADING MAXIMUMS AND GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT  
27 REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (9) SHALL APPLY FOR A DISTANCE OF

**SB 816, As Passed Senate, January 29, 1998**

SB 816 as amended January 28, 1998

3

1 NOT MORE THAN 10 MILES FROM A DESIGNATED HIGHWAY OR INTERSTATE  
2 HIGHWAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PICKUP OR DELIVERY OF AN AGRICULTURAL  
3 COMMODITY.

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

8 (5) ~~During~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (6), DURING  
9 the months of March, April, and May in each year, the maximum  
10 axle load allowable on concrete pavements ~~—~~ or pavements with a  
11 concrete base ~~—~~ shall be reduced by 25% from the maximum axle  
12 load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle loads  
13 allowable on all other types of roads during these months shall  
14 be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as specified. The  
15 maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch of tire  
16 width on concrete and concrete base or 450 pounds per inch of  
17 tire width on all other roads during the period the seasonal road  
18 restrictions are in effect.

19 (6) ~~Upon receipt of a written application and good cause~~  
20 ~~being shown, the~~ THE state transportation department ~~—~~ for  
21 roads under ~~their~~ ITS jurisdiction **MAY GRANT** ~~—~~ and A county road  
22 ~~commissions,~~ COMMISSION for roads under ~~their~~ ITS jurisdic-  
23 tion ~~—, may permit~~ SHALL GRANT exemptions from seasonal weight  
24 restrictions for ~~milk~~ THE HAULING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES  
25 on specified routes when requested IN WRITING. ~~Approval or~~  
26 ~~denial of a request for an exemption shall be given by written~~  
27 ~~notice to the applicant within 30 days after the date of~~

**SB 816, As Passed Senate, January 29, 1998**

Senate Bill No. 816

4

1 ~~submission of the application. If a request is denied, the~~  
2 ~~written notice shall state the reason for denial and alternate~~  
3 ~~routes for which the permit may be issued. The applicant shall~~  
4 ~~have the right to appeal to the state transportation commission~~  
5 ~~or the county road commission. These exemptions shall not apply~~  
6 ~~on county roads in counties which have negotiated agreements with~~  
7 ~~milk haulers, or haulers of other commodities, during periods of~~  
8 ~~seasonal load limits in years prior to the effective date of this~~  
9 ~~1993 amendatory act. This 1993 amendatory act shall not limit~~  
10 ~~the ability of these counties to continue to negotiate such~~  
11 ~~agreements.~~ AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"  
12 MEANS "FARM PRODUCTS" AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 OF THE  
13 MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM ACT, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.472, FERTILIZER,  
14 FARMING EQUIPMENT, AND FUEL. HOWEVER, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES  
15 DO NOT INCLUDE TREES AND TIMBER.

16 (7) ~~(6)~~ The state transportation department, or local  
17 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may IN  
18 ITS DISCRETION suspend the restrictions imposed by this section  
19 when and where ~~, in its discretion,~~ conditions of the highways  
20 or the public health, safety, and welfare ~~so~~ warrant  
21 SUSPENSION, and ~~may~~ impose the restricted loading requirements  
22 of this section on designated highways at any other time that the  
23 conditions of the highway ~~may~~ require.

24 (8) ~~(7)~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the  
25 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-  
26 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing  
27 individual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all

**SB 816, As Passed Senate, January 29, 1998**

Senate Bill No. 816

5

1 the axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the  
2 gross axle weight shall be determined by weighing individual  
3 axles or by weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross  
4 weight of the group of axles by the number of axles in the  
5 group. Pursuant to subsection ~~-(8)-~~ (9), the overall gross  
6 weight on a group of 2 or more axles shall be determined by  
7 weighing individual axles or several axles, and the total weight  
8 of all the axles in the group shall be the overall gross weight  
9 of the group.

10 (9) ~~-(8)-~~ The loading maximum in this subsection ~~shall~~  
11 ~~apply~~ APPLIES to interstate highways, and the state transporta-  
12 tion department, or a local authority with respect to highways  
13 under its jurisdiction, may designate a highway, or a section of  
14 a highway, for the operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle  
15 weight of not more than 80,000 pounds ~~which~~ THAT are subject to  
16 the following load maximums:

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

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

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

23

24 
$$W = 500 \frac{\sqrt{LN} + 12N + 36}{\sqrt{N-1}}$$
  
25 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-  
26 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet  
27 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,  
28

**SB 816, As Passed Senate, January 29, 1998**

Senate Bill No. 816

6

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