

SENATE BILL NO. 816

December 2, 1997, Introduced by Senators STILLE and
MC MANUS and referred to the Committee on Agriculture
and Forestry.

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.

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

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 ~~—~~ 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~~

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 AND FUEL.

15 (7) ~~-(6)-~~ The state transportation department, or local
16 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may IN
17 ITS DISCRETION suspend the restrictions imposed by this section
18 when and where ~~-, in its discretion,~~ conditions of the highways
19 or the public health, safety, and welfare ~~so~~ warrant
20 SUSPENSION, and ~~may~~ impose the restricted loading requirements
21 of this section on designated highways at any other time that the
22 conditions of the highway ~~may~~ require.

23 (8) ~~-(7)-~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the
24 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-
25 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing indi-
26 vidual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the
27 axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the gross

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

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

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

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

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

21

$$22 \quad W = 500 \quad \frac{\sqrt{LN}}{\sqrt{N-1}} + 12N + 36 \sqrt{\quad}$$

23 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
 24 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet

25 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,

26 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except

27 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of

28

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