

SENATE BILL NO. 1303

September 17, 1998, Introduced by Senators MILLER, GEAKE,
HOFFMAN, DE BEAUSSAERT, PETERS and JAYE and referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Tourism.

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~~ UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002, THE maximum
2 axle load shall not exceed the number of pounds designated in the
3 following provisions which prescribe the distance between axles:
4 (a) When the axle spacing is 9 feet or more between axles,
5 the maximum axle load shall not exceed 18,000 pounds for vehicles
6 equipped with high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.
7 (b) When 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 axles are spaced less than 3-1/2 feet apart, the
2 maximum axle load shall not exceed 9,000 pounds per axle.

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

5 (2) ~~When~~ UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002, WHEN normal loading is
6 in effect, the state transportation department and local authori-
7 ties with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may desig-
8 nate certain highways, or sections of those highways, where
9 bridges and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, which
10 designation may be revised as needed, on which the maximum tandem
11 axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle
12 of the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any
13 axle of the assembly.

14 (3) Except as provided in subsection (8), on a legal combi-
15 nation of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be permit-
16 ted on the designated highways at the gross permissible weight of
17 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet
18 of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem axle assembly
19 in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross weight of 13,000
20 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight of a combination
21 of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280 pounds, 2 tandem
22 axle assemblies shall be permitted on the designated highways at
23 a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is
24 no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly. THIS
25 SUBSECTION SHALL APPLY UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002.

1 months shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as
2 specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds
3 per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450
4 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the
5 period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect. Upon
6 receipt of a written application and good cause being shown, the
7 state transportation department, for roads under their jurisdic-
8 tion, and county road commissions, for roads under their juris-
9 diction, may permit exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions
10 for milk on specified routes when requested. Approval or denial
11 of a request for an exemption shall be given by written notice to
12 the applicant within 30 days after the date of submission of the
13 application. If a request is denied, the written notice shall
14 state the reason for denial and alternate routes for which the
15 permit may be issued. The applicant shall have the right to
16 appeal to the state transportation commission or the county road
17 commission. These exemptions shall not apply on county roads in
18 counties which have negotiated agreements with milk haulers, or
19 haulers of other commodities, during periods of seasonal load
20 limits in years prior to the effective date of this 1993 amenda-
21 tory act. This 1993 amendatory act shall not limit the ability
22 of these counties to continue to negotiate such agreements.

23 (7) ~~-(6)-~~ The state transportation department, or a local
24 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may
25 suspend the restrictions imposed by this section when and where,
26 in its discretion, conditions of the highways or the public
27 health, safety, and welfare so warrant, and may impose the

1 restricted loading requirements of this section on designated
2 highways at any other time that the conditions of the highway may
3 require.

4 (8) ~~-(7)-~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the
5 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-
6 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing indi-
7 vidual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the
8 axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, ON AND
9 UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002, the gross axle weight shall be deter-
10 mined by weighing individual axles or by weighing a group of
11 axles and dividing the gross weight of the group of axles by the
12 number of axles in the group. Pursuant to subsection ~~-(8)-~~ (4)
13 OR (9) AS APPLICABLE, the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or
14 more axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or
15 several axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group
16 shall be the overall gross weight of the group.

17 (9) ~~-(8)-~~ The loading maximum in this subsection shall apply
18 to interstate highways, and the state transportation department,
19 or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdic-
20 tion, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the
21 operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more
22 than 80,000 pounds which are subject to the following load
23 maximums:

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

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

