

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 46

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.

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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)~~ (10), 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.

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1 (4) THE EXCEPTION TO THE LOADING MAXIMUMS AND GROSS VEHICLE
2 WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (10) UNDER SUBSECTION (6) FOR A
3 PERSON HAULING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES [OR A PERSON HAULING PROPANE
GAS] APPLIES ONLY IF THE
4 PERSON WHO PICKS UP OR DELIVERS THE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY EITHER
5 FROM A FARM OR TO A FARM [OR THE PERSON WHO DELIVERS THE PROPANE
GAS] NOTIFIES THE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FOR
6 ROADS UNDER ITS AUTHORITY NOT LESS THAN 48 HOURS BEFORE THE
7 PICKUP OR DELIVERY OF THE TIME AND LOCATION OF THE PICKUP OR
8 DELIVERY. THE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A PERMIT AND
9 CHARGE A FEE THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS
10 INCURRED TO THE PERSON CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING:

11 (A) THE DESIGNATED ROUTE OR ROUTES OF TRAVEL FOR THE LOAD.

12 (B) THE DATE AND TIME PERIOD [REQUESTED BY THE PERSON WHO PICKS
UP OR DELIVERS THE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES] DURING WHICH THE LOAD
MAY BE
13 DELIVERED OR PICKED UP.

14 (C) A MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT OF TRAVEL, IF NECESSARY.

15 (D) ANY OTHER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AGREED TO BETWEEN THE
16 PARTIES.

17 THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY AFTER APRIL 1, 2002.

18 (5) ~~(4)~~ The normal size of tires shall be the rated size
19 as published by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load
20 permissible for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of
21 width of tire.

22 (6) ~~(5) During~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION AND
23 SUBSECTION (7), DURING the months of March, April, and May in
24 each year, the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements
25 ~~,~~ or pavements with a concrete base ~~,~~ shall be reduced by 25%
26 from the maximum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the
27 maximum axle loads allowable on all other types of roads during

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1 these months shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads
2 as 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. UNTIL
6 APRIL 1, 2002, THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO VEHICLES TRANS-
7 PORTING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES [OR PROPANE GAS] ON A HIGHWAY,
ROAD, OR STREET
8 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF A LOCAL ROAD AGENCY.

9 (7) ~~Upon receipt of a written application and good cause~~
10 ~~being shown, the~~ THE state transportation department ~~,~~ for
11 roads under ~~their~~ ITS jurisdiction ~~,~~ and A county road
12 ~~commissions,~~ COMMISSION for roads under ~~their~~ ITS jurisdic-
13 tion ~~,~~ may ~~permit~~ GRANT exemptions from seasonal weight
14 restrictions for milk on specified routes when requested IN
15 WRITING. Approval or denial of a request for an exemption shall
16 be given by written notice to the applicant within 30 days after
17 the date of submission of the application. If a request is
18 denied, the written notice shall state the reason for denial and
19 alternate routes for which the permit may be issued. The appli-
20 cant shall have the right to appeal to the state transportation
21 commission or the county road commission. These exemptions shall
22 not apply on county roads in counties ~~which~~ THAT have negoti-
23 ated agreements with milk haulers ~~,~~ or haulers of other commod-
24 ities ~~,~~ during periods of seasonal load limits ~~in years prior~~
25 ~~to the effective date of this 1993 amendatory act~~ BEFORE APRIL
26 14, 1993. This ~~1993 amendatory act shall~~ SUBSECTION DOES not

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1 limit the ability of these counties to continue to negotiate such
2 agreements.

3 (8) ~~-(6)-~~ The state transportation department, or local
4 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may IN
5 ITS DISCRETION suspend the restrictions imposed by this section
6 when and where ~~, in its discretion,~~ conditions of the highways
7 or the public health, safety, and welfare ~~so~~ warrant
8 SUSPENSION, and ~~may~~ impose the restricted loading requirements
9 of this section on designated highways at any other time that the
10 conditions of the highway ~~may~~ require.

11 (9) ~~-(7)-~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the
12 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-
13 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing indi-
14 vidual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the
15 axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the gross
16 axle weight shall be determined by weighing individual axles or
17 by weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross weight of the
18 group of axles by the number of axles in the group. Pursuant to
19 subsection ~~-(8)-~~ (10), the overall gross weight on a group of 2
20 or more axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or
21 several axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group
22 shall be the overall gross weight of the group.

23 (10) ~~-(8)-~~ The loading maximum in this subsection ~~shall~~
24 ~~apply~~ APPLIES to interstate highways, and the state transporta-
25 tion department, or a local authority with respect to highways
26 under its jurisdiction, may designate a highway, or a section of
27 a highway, for the operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle

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1 weight of not more than 80,000 pounds ~~which~~ THAT are subject to
2 the following load maximums:

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

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

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

9

10
$$W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

11 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
12 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet
13 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,
14 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except
15 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of
16 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive
17 sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross
18 vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all
19 enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semi-
20 trailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles,
21 vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in
22 excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by application of
23 the formula in this subsection shall be subject to the maximum
24 axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in this
25 subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmit-
26 ted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the centers of
27 which may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes
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1 spaced more than 40 inches ~~—~~ but not more than 96 inches ~~—~~,
2 apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle. EXCEPT AS
3 OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, VEHICLES TRANSPORTING AGRI-
4 CULTURAL COMMODITIES [OR PROPANE GAS] SHALL HAVE WEIGHT LOAD
MAXIMUMS AS DEFINED
5 IN THIS SUBSECTION.

6 (11) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"
7 MEANS THOSE PLANTS AND ANIMALS USEFUL TO HUMAN BEINGS PRODUCED BY
8 AGRICULTURE AND INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, FORAGES AND SOD
9 CROPS, GRAINS AND FEED CROPS, FIELD CROPS, DAIRY AND DAIRY PRO-
10 DUCTS, POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS, CERVIDAE, LIVESTOCK, INCLUD-
11 ING BREEDING AND GRAZING, EQUINE, FISH, AND OTHER AQUACULTURAL
12 PRODUCTS, BEES AND BEE PRODUCTS, BERRIES, HERBS, FRUITS, VEGETA-
13 BLES, FLOWERS, SEEDS, GRASSES, NURSERY STOCK, MUSHROOMS, FERTIL-
14 IZER, LIVESTOCK BEDDING, FARMING EQUIPMENT, AND FUEL FOR AGRICUL-
15 TURAL USE. [THE TERM "AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES" SHALL NOT INCLUDE
TREES AND LUMBER.]

THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY AFTER APRIL 1, 2002.