

HOUSE BILL No. 4323

February 23, 1999, Introduced by Reps. Geiger, Hale, Rick Johnson, DeVuyst, Green, Tesanovich, Garcia, Birkholz, Middaugh, Mortimer, Ehardt, Pappageorge, Jelinek, Van Woerkom, Mead, Jansen and Scranton and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 721 (MCL 257.721), as amended by 1995 PA
248.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 721. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection
2 (5), a passenger vehicle or a pickup truck shall not be driven
3 upon a highway drawing or having attached to the passenger vehi-
4 cle or pickup truck more than 1 vehicle or trailer.

5 (2) The drawbar or other connection between 2 vehicles, 1 of
6 which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall not
7 exceed 15 feet in length from 1 vehicle to the other. If the
8 connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be
9 displayed upon the connection a red flag or other signal or cloth
10 not less than 12 inches both in length and width.

1 (3) A vehicle or trailer towed or drawn by a vehicle shall
2 be attached to the vehicle with forms of coupling devices in a
3 manner so that when the combination is operated in a linear
4 alignment on a level, smooth, paved surface, the movement of the
5 towed or drawn vehicle or trailer does not deviate more than
6 3 inches to either side of the path of the towing vehicle that
7 tows or draws it. The vehicle or trailer shall also be connected
8 to the towing vehicle ~~—,~~ by suitable safety chains or devices, 1
9 on each side of the coupling and at the extreme outer edge of the
10 vehicle or trailer. ~~and each~~ EACH chain or device and connec-
11 tion used shall be of sufficient strength to haul the vehicle or
12 trailer when loaded. IN THE CASE OF AN IMPLEMENT OF HUSBANDRY
13 WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING OR GROSS COMBINATION WEIGHT
14 RATING OF 10,000 POUNDS OR LESS, THE SAFETY CHAINS OR DEVICES
15 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL CONFORM TO THE FEDERAL MOTOR
16 CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN 49
17 C.F.R. 393.70(d)(5).

18 (4) A pickup truck with a fifth wheel assembly shall not tow
19 a semitrailer unless the fifth wheel assembly conforms to the
20 standards prescribed in the motor carrier safety act OF 1963,
21 ~~Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1963, being sections 480.11 to~~
22 ~~480.21 of the Michigan Compiled Laws— 1963 PA 181, MCL 480.11 TO~~
23 ~~480.22.~~

24 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pickup truck with a
25 towing rating equal to, or greater than, the weight being towed,
26 equipped with a fifth wheel assembly ~~which~~ THAT conforms with
27 the standards prescribed in ~~Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of~~

1 ~~1963~~ THE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ACT OF 1963, 1963 PA 181, MCL
2 480.11 TO 480.22, towing attached with a semitrailer designed for
3 recreational living purposes may tow an additional trailer or
4 semitrailer under the following conditions:

5 (a) The additional trailer or semitrailer shall be attached
6 pursuant to subsection (3). The safety chains described in
7 subsection (3) shall be securely attached at the extreme outer
8 edge of the attached trailer or semitrailer with a locking
9 mechanism. The towing vehicle hitch shall be of substantial
10 material and shall be attached in a proper and skillful manner to
11 the frame of the towing vehicle.

12 (b) The total length of the pickup truck, semitrailer
13 designed for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer
14 or semitrailer, and load, shall not exceed 59 feet.

15 (c) The gross weight of the additional trailer or semi-
16 trailer towed or drawn shall not exceed the empty weight of the
17 pickup truck or the empty weight of the semitrailer.

18 (6) For the purposes of this section, a pickup truck towing
19 a semitrailer and additional trailer shall be considered a pas-
20 senger vehicle and shall comply with the speed limit requirements
21 of section 627(5).

22 (7) A person who violates this section is responsible for a
23 civil infraction.