

HOUSE BILL No. 4626

May 4, 1999, Introduced by Rep. Callahan and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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 chain or device and connection used
11 shall be of sufficient strength to haul the vehicle or trailer
12 when loaded.

13 (4) A pickup truck with a fifth wheel assembly shall not tow
14 a semitrailer unless the fifth wheel assembly conforms to the
15 standards prescribed in the motor carrier safety act OF 1963,
16 ~~Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1963, being sections 480.11 to~~
17 ~~480.21 of the Michigan Compiled Laws 1963 PA 181, MCL 480.11 TO~~
18 480.22.

19 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pickup truck with a
20 towing rating equal to, or greater than, the weight being towed,
21 equipped with a fifth wheel assembly ~~which~~ THAT conforms ~~with~~
22 TO the standards prescribed in ~~Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of~~
23 ~~1963~~ THE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ACT OF 1963, 1963 PA 181, MCL
24 480.11 TO 480.22, towing attached with a semitrailer designed for
25 recreational living purposes may tow an additional trailer or
26 semitrailer under the following conditions:

1 (a) The additional trailer or semitrailer ~~shall be~~ IS
2 attached ~~pursuant to~~ AS REQUIRED UNDER subsection (3). The
3 safety chains described in subsection (3) shall be securely
4 attached at the extreme outer edge of the attached trailer or
5 semitrailer with a locking mechanism. The towing vehicle hitch
6 shall be of substantial material and shall be attached in a
7 proper and skillful manner to the frame of the towing vehicle AND
8 SHALL BE REMOVED AFTER THE TOW IS COMPLETED.

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

12 (c) The gross weight of the additional trailer or semi-
13 trailer towed or drawn shall not exceed the empty weight of the
14 pickup truck or the empty weight of the semitrailer.

15 (6) IMMEDIATELY AFTER A PASSENGER VEHICLE OR PICKUP TRUCK IS
16 USED TO TOW OR DRAW ANOTHER VEHICLE OR TRAILER, THE HITCH OR
17 OTHER CONNECTION USED TO SECURE THE VEHICLE OR TRAILER BEING
18 TOWED SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE TOWING VEHICLE.

19 (7) ~~-(6)-~~ For the purposes of this section, a pickup truck
20 towing a semitrailer and additional trailer shall be considered a
21 passenger vehicle and shall comply with the speed limit require-
22 ments of section 627(5).

23 (8) ~~-(7)-~~ A person who violates this section is responsible
24 for a civil infraction.