

# HOUSE BILL No. 5205

October 16, 2001, Introduced by Reps. Gilbert and Hager and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 719 (MCL 257.719), as amended by 2000 PA  
306.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 719. (1) A vehicle unloaded or with load shall not  
2 exceed a height of 13 feet 6 inches. The owner of a vehicle that  
3 collides with a lawfully established bridge or viaduct is liable  
4 for all damage and injury resulting from a collision caused by  
5 the height of the vehicle, whether the clearance of the bridge or  
6 viaduct is posted or not.

7       (2) Lengths described in this subsection shall be known as  
8 the normal length maximum. Except as provided in subsection (3),  
9 the following vehicles and combinations of vehicles shall not be  
10 operated on a highway in this state in excess of these lengths:

05415'01

JJG

1 (a) Any single vehicle: 40 feet; any single bus: 45 feet.

2 (b) Articulated buses: 65 feet.

3 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
4 combination of a truck and semitrailer or trailer, or a truck  
5 tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or truck tractor and semi-  
6 trailer or trailer, designed and used exclusively to transport  
7 assembled motor vehicles or bodies, recreational vehicles, or  
8 boats, that does not exceed a length of 65 feet. Stinger-steered  
9 combinations shall not exceed a length of 75 feet. The load on  
10 the combinations of vehicles described in this subdivision may  
11 extend an additional 3 feet beyond the front and 4 feet beyond  
12 the rear of the combinations of vehicles. Retractable extensions  
13 used to support and secure the load that do not extend beyond the  
14 allowable overhang for the front and rear shall not be included  
15 in determining length of a loaded vehicle or vehicle  
16 combination.

17 (d) Truck tractor and semitrailer combinations: no overall  
18 length, the semitrailer not to exceed 50 feet.

19 (e) Truck and semitrailer or trailer: 59 feet.

20 (f) Truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or truck trac-  
21 tor and 2 semitrailers: 59 feet.

22 (g) More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially assem-  
23 bled, in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with  
24 full mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the  
25 vehicles in combination, not to exceed 55 feet.

**HB5205, As Passed House, January 29, 2002**

HB 5205 as amended January 29, 2002

3

1       (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the following vehicles  
2 and combinations of vehicles shall not be operated on a  
3 designated highway of this state in excess of these lengths:

4       (a) Truck tractor and semitrailer combinations: no overall  
5 length limit, the semitrailer not to exceed 53 feet. All semi-  
6 trailers longer than 50 feet shall have a wheelbase of [37.5 TO] 40.5  
7 feet  
8 plus or minus 0.5 feet, measured from the kingpin coupling to the  
9 center of the rear axle or the center of the REAR [~~tandem~~] axle  
10 assembly [~~if equipped with 2 axles~~].] A semi-  
11 trailer with a length longer than 50 feet shall not operate with  
12 more than ~~2~~ 3 axles on the semitrailer. City, village, or  
13 county authorities may prohibit stops of vehicles with a semi-  
14 trailer longer than 50 feet within their jurisdiction unless the  
15 stop occurs along appropriately designated routes, or is neces-  
16 sary for emergency purposes or to reach shippers, receivers,  
17 warehouses, and terminals along designated routes.

18       (b) Truck and semitrailer or trailer combinations: 65 feet,  
19 except that a person may operate a truck and semitrailer or  
20 trailer designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and  
21 tree length poles that does not exceed an overall length of 70  
22 feet. A person may operate a truck tractor and semitrailer  
23 designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and tree  
24 length wooden poles with a load overhang to the rear of the semi-  
25 trailer which does not exceed 6 feet if the semitrailer does not  
26 exceed 50 feet in length.

27       (c) Truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, or truck tractor,  
semitrailer, and trailer combinations: no overall length limit,

**HB5205, As Passed House, January 29, 2002**

05415'01

1 if the length of each semitrailer or trailer does not exceed  
2 28-1/2 feet each, or the overall length of the semitrailer and  
3 trailer, or 2 semitrailers as measured from the front of the  
4 first towed unit to the rear of the second towed unit while the  
5 units are coupled together does not exceed 58 feet.

6 (d) More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially assem-  
7 bled, in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with  
8 full mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the  
9 vehicles in combination, not to exceed 75 feet.

10 (4) The following combinations and movements are  
11 prohibited:

12 (a) A truck shall not haul more than 1 trailer or semitrail-  
13 er, and a truck tractor shall not haul more than 2 semitrailers  
14 or 1 semitrailer and 1 trailer in combination at any 1 time,  
15 except that a farm tractor may haul 2 wagons or trailers, or gar-  
16 bage and refuse haulers may, during daylight hours, haul up to 4  
17 trailers for garbage and refuse collection purposes, not exceed-  
18 ing in any combination a total length of 55 feet and at a speed  
19 limit not to exceed 15 miles per hour.

20 (b) A combination of vehicles or a vehicle shall not have  
21 more than 11 axles, except when operating under a valid permit  
22 issued by the state transportation department or a local author-  
23 ity with respect to a highway under its jurisdiction.

24 (c) Any combination of vehicles not specifically authorized  
25 under this section is prohibited.

26 (d) A combination of 2 semitrailers pulled by a truck  
27 tractor, unless each semitrailer uses a fifth wheel connecting

1 assembly which conforms to the requirements of the motor carrier  
2 safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to 480.22.

3 (e) A vehicle or a combination of vehicles shall not carry a  
4 load extending more than 3 feet beyond the front of the lead  
5 vehicle.

6 (f) A vehicle described in subsections (2)(e) and (3)(d)  
7 employing triple saddle mounts unless all wheels that are in con-  
8 tact with the roadway have operating brakes.

9 (5) All combinations of vehicles under this section shall  
10 employ connecting assemblies and lighting devices that are in  
11 compliance with the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA  
12 181, MCL 480.11 to 480.22.

13 (6) The total gross weight of a truck tractor, semitrailer,  
14 and trailer combination or a truck tractor and 2 semitrailers  
15 combination that exceeds 59 feet in length shall not exceed a  
16 ratio of 400 pounds per engine net horsepower delivered to clutch  
17 or its equivalent specified in the handbook published by the  
18 society of automotive engineers, inc. (SAE), 1977 edition.

19 (7) A person who violates this section is responsible for a  
20 civil infraction. The owner of the vehicle may be charged with a  
21 violation of this section.

22 (8) As used in this section:

23 (a) "Designated highway" means a highway approved by the  
24 state transportation department or a local authority with respect  
25 to a highway under its jurisdiction.

26 (b) "Length" means the total length of a vehicle, or  
27 combination of vehicles, including any load the vehicle is

1 carrying. Length does not include safety and energy conservation  
2 devices including, but not limited to, impact absorbing bumpers,  
3 rear view mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker lamps, steps and  
4 hand holds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mud  
5 flaps, or splash and spray suppressant devices; load induced tire  
6 bulge; refrigeration or heating units; or air compressors  
7 attached to the vehicle. A safety or energy conservation device  
8 shall be excluded from a determination of length only if it is  
9 not designed or used for the carrying of cargo, freight, or  
10 equipment. Semitrailers and trailers shall be measured from the  
11 front vertical plane of the foremost transverse load supporting  
12 structure to the rearmost transverse load supporting structure.

13 (c) "Stinger-steered combinations" means a truck tractor and  
14 semitrailer combination in which the fifth wheel is located on a  
15 drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the  
16 power unit.