

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 5337**

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 722 (MCL 257.722), as amended by 2000 PA 6.

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 that pre-
3 scribe the distance between axles:

4 (a) If the axle spacing is 9 feet or more between axles, the
5 maximum axle load shall not exceed 18,000 pounds for vehicles
6 equipped with high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.

7 (b) If the axle spacing is less than 9 feet between 2 axles
8 but more than 3-1/2 feet, the maximum axle load shall not exceed
9 13,000 pounds for high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.

10 (c) If the axles are spaced less than 3-1/2 feet apart, the
11 maximum axle load shall not exceed 9,000 pounds per axle.

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

3 (2) When normal loading is in effect, the state transporta-
4 tion department, or a local authority with respect to highways
5 under its jurisdiction, may designate certain highways, or sec-
6 tions of those highways, where bridges and road surfaces are ade-
7 quate for heavier loading, and revise a designation as needed, on
8 which the maximum tandem axle assembly loading shall not exceed
9 16,000 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there is no other
10 axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

11 (3) ~~Except as provided in subsection (10), on~~ ON a legal
12 combination of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be
13 permitted on the designated highways at the gross permissible
14 weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle
15 within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem
16 axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross
17 weight of 13,000 pounds per axle. ~~When the maximum gross weight~~
18 ~~of a combination of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280~~
19 ~~pounds, 2~~ ON A COMBINATION OF TRUCK TRACTOR AND SEMITRAILER
20 HAVING NOT MORE THAN 5 AXLES, 2 CONSECUTIVE tandem axle assem-
21 blies shall be permitted on the designated highways at a gross
22 permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no
23 other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

24 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (3), ON A COMBINATION OF
25 TRUCK TRACTOR AND SEMITRAILER HAVING NOT MORE THAN 5 AXLES, 2
26 CONSECUTIVE SETS OF TANDEM AXLES MAY CARRY A GROSS PERMISSIBLE
27 WEIGHT OF NOT TO EXCEED 17,000 POUNDS ON ANY AXLE OF THE TANDEM

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1 AXLES IF THERE IS NO OTHER AXLE WITHIN 9 FEET OF ANY AXLE OF THE
2 TANDEM AXLES AND IF THE FIRST AND LAST AXLES OF THE CONSECUTIVE
3 SETS OF TANDEM AXLES ARE NOT LESS THAN 36 FEET APART AND THE
4 GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT DOES NOT EXCEED 80,000 POUNDS TO PICK UP AND
5 DELIVER AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES BETWEEN THE NATIONAL TRUCK NET-
6 WORK OR SPECIAL DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS AND ANY OTHER HIGHWAY. THIS
7 SUBSECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE MAXIMUM AXLE LOADS OF SUBSEC-
8 TIONS (1), (2), AND (3). FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
9 "TANDEM AXLE" MEANS 2 AXLES SPACED MORE THAN 40 INCHES BUT NOT
10 MORE THAN 96 INCHES APART OR 2 AXLES SPACED MORE THAN 3-1/2 FEET
11 BUT LESS THAN 9 FEET APART. THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY
12 DURING THAT PERIOD WHEN REDUCED MAXIMUM LOADS ARE IN EFFECT PUR-
13 SUANT TO SUBSECTION (7). THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY AFTER
14 DECEMBER 31, 2006.

15 (5) ~~-(4)-~~ The exception to the loading maximums and gross
16 vehicle weight requirements of subsection ~~-(10)-~~ (11) under sub-
17 section ~~-(6)-~~ (7) for a person hauling agricultural commodities
18 OR A PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE applies only if the person who picks
19 up or delivers the agricultural commodity either from a farm or
20 to a farm OR THE PUBLIC UTILITY notifies the county road commis-
21 sion for roads under its authority not less than 48 hours before
22 the pickup or delivery of the time and location of the pickup or
23 delivery. The county road commission shall issue a permit TO THE
24 PERSON OR THE PUBLIC UTILITY and charge a fee that does not
25 exceed the administrative costs incurred. ~~to the person~~
26 ~~containing~~ THE PERMIT SHALL CONTAIN the following:

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1 (a) The designated route or routes of travel for the load.

2 (b) The date and time period requested by the person who
3 picks up or delivers the agricultural commodities OR THE PUBLIC
4 UTILITY during which the load may be delivered or picked up.

5 (c) A maximum speed limit of travel, if necessary.

6 (d) Any other specific conditions agreed to between the
7 parties.

8 ~~This subsection does not apply after April 1, 2002.~~

9 (6) ~~-(5)-~~ The normal size of tires shall be the rated size
10 as published by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load
11 permissible for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of
12 width of tire.

13 (7) ~~-(6)-~~ Except as provided in this subsection and subsec-
14 tion ~~-(7)-~~ (8), during the months of March, April, and May in
15 each year, the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements
16 or pavements with a concrete base shall be reduced by 25% from
17 the maximum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maxi-
18 mum axle loads allowable on all other types of roads during these
19 months shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as
20 specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds
21 per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450
22 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the
23 period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect. ~~Until~~

24 ~~April 1, 2002, this~~ THIS subsection does not apply to vehicles
25 transporting agricultural commodities OR PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES
26 on a highway, road, or street under the jurisdiction of a local
27 road agency.

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1 (8) ~~-(7)-~~ The state transportation department for roads
2 under its jurisdiction and a county road commission for roads
3 under its jurisdiction may grant exemptions from seasonal weight
4 restrictions for milk on specified routes when requested in
5 writing. Approval or denial of a request for an exemption shall
6 be given by written notice to the applicant within 30 days after
7 the date of submission of the application. If a request is
8 denied, the written notice shall state the reason for denial and
9 alternate routes for which the permit may be issued. The appli-
10 cant shall have the right to appeal to the state transportation
11 commission or the county road commission. These exemptions shall
12 not apply on county roads in counties that have negotiated agree-
13 ments with milk haulers or haulers of other commodities during
14 periods of seasonal load limits before April 14, 1993. This sub-
15 section does not limit the ability of these counties to continue
16 to negotiate such agreements.

17 (9) ~~-(8)-~~ The state transportation department, or a local
18 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may in
19 its discretion suspend the restrictions imposed by this section
20 when and where conditions of the highways or the public health,
21 safety, and welfare warrant suspension, and impose the restricted
22 loading requirements of this section on designated highways at
23 any other time that the conditions of the highway require.

24 (10) ~~-(9)-~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the
25 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-
26 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing
27 individual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all

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1 the axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the
2 gross axle weight shall be determined by weighing individual
3 axles or by weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross
4 weight of the group of axles by the number of axles in the
5 group. Pursuant to subsection ~~-(10)-~~ (11), the overall gross
6 weight on a group of 2 or more axles shall be determined by
7 weighing individual axles or several axles, and the total weight
8 of all the axles in the group shall be the overall gross weight
9 of the group.

10 (11) ~~(10)~~ The loading maximum in this subsection applies
11 to interstate highways, and the state transportation department,
12 or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdic-
13 tion, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the
14 operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more
15 than 80,000 pounds that are subject to the following load
16 maximums:

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

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

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

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24      W = 500      /LN + 12N + 36\
25      \N-1          /

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26 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
27 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet
28 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,

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1 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except
2 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of
3 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive
4 sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross
5 vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all
6 enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semi-
7 trailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles,
8 vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in
9 excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by application of
10 the formula in this subsection shall be subject to the maximum
11 axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in this
12 subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmit-
13 ted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the centers of
14 which may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes
15 spaced more than 40 inches but not more than 96 inches apart,
16 extending across the full width of the vehicle. Except as other-
17 wise provided in this section, vehicles transporting agricultural
18 commodities shall have weight load maximums as defined in this
19 subsection.

20 (12) ~~-(11)-~~ As used in this section, "agricultural
21 commodities" means those plants and animals useful to human
22 beings produced by agriculture and includes, but is not limited
23 to, forages and sod crops, grains and feed crops, field crops,
24 dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, cervidae,
25 livestock, including breeding and grazing, equine, fish, and
26 other aquacultural products, bees and bee products, berries,
27 herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery

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1 stock, mushrooms, fertilizer, livestock bedding, farming
2 equipment, and fuel for agricultural use. The term "agricultural
3 commodities" shall not include trees and lumber. ~~This subsec-~~
4 ~~tion does not apply after April 1, 2002.~~