

HOUSE BILL No. 5020

July 11, 2001, Introduced by Rep. Allen and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (E),
2 THE maximum axle load shall not exceed the number of pounds des-
3 igned in the following provisions that prescribe the distance
4 between axles:

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

8 (b) If the axle spacing is less than 9 feet between 2 axles
9 but more than 3-1/2 feet, the maximum axle load shall not exceed
10 13,000 pounds for high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.

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

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

5 (E) A VEHICLE USED FOR PAVEMENT MARKING MAY EXCEED THE
6 NORMAL LOADING MAXIMUM PROVIDED BY THIS SUBSECTION BY NOT MORE
7 THAN 20%. HOWEVER, A VEHICLE USED FOR PAVEMENT MARKING IS NOT
8 EXEMPT FROM THE SEASONAL WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS DESCRIBED IN
9 SUBSECTION (6).

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

18 (3) Except as provided in subsection (10), on a legal combi-
19 nation of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be permit-
20 ted on the designated highways at the gross permissible weight of
21 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet
22 of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem axle assembly
23 in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross weight of 13,000
24 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight of a combination
25 of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280 pounds, 2 tandem
26 axle assemblies shall be permitted on the designated highways at

1 a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is
2 no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

3 (4) The exception to the loading maximums and gross vehicle
4 weight requirements of subsection (10) under subsection (6) for a
5 person hauling agricultural commodities applies only if the
6 person who picks up or delivers the agricultural commodity either
7 from a farm or to a farm notifies the county road commission for
8 roads under its authority not less than 48 hours before the
9 pickup or delivery of the time and location of the pickup or
10 delivery. The county road commission shall issue a permit and
11 charge a fee that does not exceed the administrative costs
12 incurred to the person containing the following:

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

14 (b) The date and time period requested by the person who
15 picks up or delivers the agricultural commodities during which
16 the load may be delivered or picked up.

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

18 (d) Any other specific conditions agreed to between the
19 parties.

20 This subsection does not apply after April 1, 2002.

21 (5) The normal size of tires shall be the rated size as pub-
22 lished by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load permissi-
23 ble for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of width
24 of tire.

25 (6) Except as provided in this subsection and subsection
26 (7), during the months of March, April, and May in each year, the
27 maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements or pavements

1 with a concrete base shall be reduced by 25% from the maximum
2 axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle
3 loads allowable on all other types of roads during these months
4 shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as
5 specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds
6 per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450
7 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the
8 period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect. Until
9 April 1, 2002, this subsection does not apply to vehicles trans-
10 porting agricultural commodities on a highway, road, or street
11 under the jurisdiction of a local road agency.

12 (7) The state transportation department for roads under its
13 jurisdiction and a county road commission for roads under its
14 jurisdiction may grant exemptions from seasonal weight restric-
15 tions for milk on specified routes when requested in writing.
16 Approval or denial of a request for an exemption shall be given
17 by written notice to the applicant within 30 days after the date
18 of submission of the application. If a request is denied, the
19 written notice shall state the reason for denial and alternate
20 routes for which the permit may be issued. The applicant shall
21 have the right to appeal to the state transportation commission
22 or the county road commission. These exemptions shall not apply
23 on county roads in counties that have negotiated agreements with
24 milk haulers or haulers of other commodities during periods of
25 seasonal load limits before April 14, 1993. This subsection does
26 not limit the ability of these counties to continue to negotiate
27 such agreements.

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

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

20 (10) The loading maximum in this subsection applies to
21 interstate highways, and the state transportation department, or
22 a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdic-
23 tion, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the
24 operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more
25 than 80,000 pounds that are subject to the following load
26 maximums:

1 agricultural commodities shall have weight load maximums as
2 defined in this subsection.

3 (11) As used in this section, "agricultural commodities"
4 means those plants and animals useful to human beings produced by
5 agriculture and includes, but is not limited to, forages and sod
6 crops, grains and feed crops, field crops, dairy and dairy pro-
7 ducts, poultry and poultry products, cervidae, livestock, includ-
8 ing breeding and grazing, equine, fish, and other aquacultural
9 products, bees and bee products, berries, herbs, fruits, vegeta-
10 bles, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock, mushrooms, fertil-
11 izer, livestock bedding, farming equipment, and fuel for agricul-
12 tural use. The term "agricultural commodities" shall not include
13 trees and lumber. This subsection does not apply after April 1,
14 2002.