

SENATE BILL No. 940

May 15, 2014, Introduced by Senators ANANICH, CASPERSON, ROBERTSON and PAVLOV and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 717 (MCL 257.717), as amended by 2008 PA 539.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 717. (1) The total outside width of a vehicle or the load
2 on a vehicle shall not exceed 96 inches, except as otherwise
3 provided in this section.

4 (2) A person may operate or move an implement of husbandry of
5 any width on a highway as required, designed, and intended for
6 farming operations, including the movement of implements of
7 husbandry being driven or towed and not hauled on a trailer,
8 without obtaining a special permit for an excessively wide vehicle
9 or load under section 725. The operation or movement of the
10 implement of husbandry shall be in a manner so as to minimize the

1 interruption of traffic flow. A person shall not operate or move an
2 implement of husbandry to the left of the center of the roadway
3 from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, under
4 the conditions specified in section 639, or at any time visibility
5 is substantially diminished due to weather conditions. A person
6 operating or moving an implement of husbandry shall follow all
7 traffic regulations.

8 (3) The total outside width of the load of a vehicle hauling
9 concrete pipe, **STEEL PIPE**, agricultural products, or unprocessed
10 logs, pulpwood, or wood bolts shall not exceed 108 inches.

11 (4) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (5) and this
12 subsection, if a vehicle that is equipped with pneumatic tires is
13 operated on a highway, the maximum width from the outside of 1
14 wheel and tire to the outside of the opposite wheel and tire shall
15 not exceed 102 inches, and the outside width of the body of the
16 vehicle or the load on the vehicle shall not exceed 96 inches.
17 However, a truck and trailer or a tractor and semitrailer
18 combination hauling pulpwood or unprocessed logs may be operated
19 with a maximum width of not to exceed 108 inches in accordance with
20 a special permit issued under section 725.

21 (5) The total outside body width of a bus, a trailer coach, a
22 trailer, a semitrailer, a truck camper, or a motor home shall not
23 exceed 102 inches. However, an appurtenance of a trailer coach, a
24 truck camper, or a motor home that extends not more than 6 inches
25 beyond the total outside body width is not a violation of this
26 section.

27 (6) A vehicle shall not extend beyond the center line of a

1 state trunk line highway except when authorized by law. Except as
2 provided in subsection (2), if the width of the vehicle makes it
3 impossible to stay away from the center line, a permit shall be
4 obtained under section 725.

5 (7) The director of the state transportation department, a
6 county road commission, or a local authority may designate a
7 highway under the agency's jurisdiction as a highway on which a
8 person may operate a vehicle or vehicle combination that is not
9 more than 102 inches in width, including load, the operation of
10 which would otherwise be prohibited by this section. The agency
11 making the designation may require that the owner or lessee of the
12 vehicle or of each vehicle in the vehicle combination secure a
13 permit before operating the vehicle or vehicle combination. This
14 subsection does not restrict the issuance of a special permit under
15 section 725 for the operation of a vehicle or vehicle combination.
16 This subsection does not permit the operation of a vehicle or
17 vehicle combination described in section 722a carrying a load
18 described in that section if the operation would otherwise result
19 in a violation of that section.

20 (8) The director of the state transportation department, a
21 county road commission, or a local authority may issue a special
22 permit under section 725 to a person operating a vehicle or vehicle
23 combination if all of the following are met:

24 (a) The vehicle or vehicle combination, including load, is not
25 more than 106 inches in width.

26 (b) The vehicle or vehicle combination is used solely to move
27 new motor vehicles or parts or components of new motor vehicles

1 between facilities that meet all of the following:

2 (i) New motor vehicles or parts or components of new motor
3 vehicles are manufactured or assembled in the facilities.

4 (ii) The facilities are located within 10 miles of each other.

5 (iii) The facilities are located within the city limits of the
6 same city and the city is located in a county that has a population
7 of more than 400,000 and less than 500,000 according to the most
8 recent federal decennial census.

9 (c) The special permit and any renewals are each issued for a
10 term of 1 year or less.

11 (9) A person may move or operate a boat lift of any width or
12 an oversized hydraulic boat trailer owned and operated by a marina
13 or watercraft dealer in a commercial boat storage operation on a
14 highway under a multiple trip permit issued on an annual basis as
15 specified under section 725. The operation or movement of the boat
16 lift or trailer shall minimize the interruption of traffic flow. It
17 shall be used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of
18 storage and a marina or in and around a marina. A boat lift or
19 oversized hydraulic boat trailer may be operated, drawn, or towed
20 on a street or highway only when transporting a vessel between a
21 body of water and a place of storage or when traveling empty to or
22 from transporting a vessel. A boat lift shall not be operated on
23 limited access highways. A person moving or operating a boat lift
24 or oversized hydraulic boat trailer shall follow all traffic
25 regulations and shall ensure the route selected has adequate power
26 and utility wire height clearance.

27 (10) A person who violates this section is responsible for a

- 1 civil infraction. The owner of the vehicle may be charged with a
- 2 violation of this section.