

Legislative Analysis



SEMITRAILER WHEELBASE LENGTH RESTRICTIONS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4956 as reported from Committee
Sponsor: Rep. Triston Cole
Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure
Complete to 10-26-17

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4956 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to remove wheelbase length restrictions for certain semitrailers.

Under the Code, certain vehicles and combinations of vehicles are prohibited from operating on a highway in Michigan in excess of statutory vehicle length maximums.

The bill would delete wheelbase length requirements for semitrailers greater than 50 feet in length (generally, semitrailers may not exceed 53 feet in length). Currently for a semitrailer greater than 50 feet, the wheelbase must be between 37.5 and 40.5 feet, plus or minus 0.5 foot, measured from the kingpin coupling to the center of either the rear axle or the rear axle assembly.

The bill would also remove restrictions on lowboy semitrailer wheelbase lengths, which currently cannot be longer than 55 feet measured from the kingpin coupling to the center of the rear axle.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill has no apparent fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

POSITIONS:

A representative of Central Transport testified in support of the bill. (10-17-17)
Michigan Association of Timbermen supports the bill. (10-17-17)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.