

# SENATE BILL No. 915

March 21, 2018, Introduced by Senator CASPERSON and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending sections 717 and 722 (MCL 257.717 and 257.722), section  
717 as amended by 2014 PA 391 and section 722 as amended by 2017 PA  
80.

## 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

1 or load under section 725. The operation or movement of the  
2 implement of husbandry shall be in a manner so as to minimize the  
3 interruption of traffic flow. A person shall not operate or move an  
4 implement of husbandry to the left of the center of the roadway  
5 from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, under  
6 the conditions specified in section 639, or at any time visibility  
7 is substantially diminished due to weather conditions. A person  
8 operating or moving an implement of husbandry shall follow all  
9 traffic regulations.

10 (3) The total outside width of the load of a vehicle hauling  
11 concrete pipe, ferrous pipe, agricultural products, or unprocessed  
12 logs, pulpwood, or wood bolts shall not exceed 108 inches.

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

23 (5) The total outside body width of a **SCHOOL BUS, A** bus, a  
24 trailer coach, a trailer, a semitrailer, a truck camper, or a motor  
25 home shall not exceed 102 inches. However, an appurtenance of a  
26 **SCHOOL BUS, A** trailer coach, a truck camper, or a motor home that  
27 extends not more than 6 inches beyond the total outside body width

1 is not a violation of this section.

2 (6) A vehicle shall not extend beyond the center line of a  
3 state trunk line highway except when authorized by law. Except as  
4 provided in subsection (2), if the width of the vehicle makes it  
5 impossible to stay away from the center line, a permit shall be  
6 obtained under section 725.

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

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

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

(b) The vehicle or vehicle combination is used solely to move new motor vehicles or parts or components of new motor vehicles between facilities that meet all of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

1 and utility wire height clearance.

2 (10) A person who violates this section is responsible for a  
3 civil infraction. The owner of the vehicle may be charged with a  
4 violation of this section.

5 Sec. 722. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
6 the maximum axle load shall not exceed the number of pounds  
7 designated in the following provisions that prescribe the distance  
8 between axles:

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

12 (b) If the axle spacing is less than 9 feet between 2 axles  
13 but more than 3-1/2 feet, the maximum axle load shall not exceed  
14 13,000 pounds for high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.

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

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

19 (2) When normal loading is in effect, the state transportation  
20 department, or a local authority with respect to highways under its  
21 jurisdiction, may designate certain highways, or sections of those  
22 highways, where bridges and road surfaces are adequate for heavier  
23 loading, and revise a designation as needed, on which the maximum  
24 tandem axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any  
25 axle of the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of  
26 any axle of the assembly.

27 (3) On a legal combination of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle

1 assembly is permitted on the designated highways at the gross  
2 permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other  
3 axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly, and if no other  
4 tandem axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross  
5 weight of 13,000 pounds per axle. On a combination of truck tractor  
6 and semitrailer having not more than 5 axles, 2 consecutive tandem  
7 axle assemblies are permitted on the designated highways at a gross  
8 permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other  
9 axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

10 (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), on a combination of truck  
11 tractor and semitrailer having not more than 5 axles, 2 consecutive  
12 sets of tandem axles may carry a gross permissible weight of not to  
13 exceed 17,000 pounds on any axle of the tandem axles if there is no  
14 other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the tandem axles and if the  
15 first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles are  
16 not less than 36 feet apart and the gross vehicle weight does not  
17 exceed 80,000 pounds to pick up and deliver agricultural  
18 commodities between the national truck network or special  
19 designated highways and any other highway. This subsection is not  
20 subject to the maximum axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3).  
21 For purposes of this subsection, a "tandem axle" means 2 axles  
22 spaced more than 40 inches but not more than 96 inches apart or 2  
23 axles spaced more than 3-1/2 feet but less than 9 feet apart. This  
24 subsection does not apply during that period when reduced maximum  
25 loads are in effect under subsection (8).

26 (5) The seasonal reductions described under subsection (8) to  
27 the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirement of

subsection (12) do not apply to a person hauling agricultural commodities if the person who picks up or delivers the agricultural commodity either from a farm or to a farm notifies the county road commission for roads under its authority not less than 48 hours before the pickup or delivery of the time and location of the pickup or delivery. The county road commission shall issue a permit to the person and charge a fee that does not exceed the administrative costs incurred. The permit shall contain all of the following:

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

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

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

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

(6) The seasonal reductions described under subsection (8) to the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirements of subsection (12) do not apply to public utility vehicles under the following circumstances:

(a) For emergency public utility work on restricted roads, as follows:

(i) If required by the county road commission, the public utility or its subcontractor shall notify the county road commission, as soon as practical, of the location of the emergency public utility work and provide a statement that the vehicles that were used to perform the emergency utility work may have exceeded

1 the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirements of  
2 subsection (12) as reduced under subsection (8). The notification  
3 may be made via facsimile or electronically.

4 (ii) The public utility vehicle travels to and from the site  
5 of the emergency public utility work while on a restricted road at  
6 a speed not greater than 35 miles per hour.

7 (b) For nonemergency public utility work on restricted roads,  
8 as follows:

9 (i) If the county road commission requires, the public utility  
10 or its subcontractor shall apply to the county road commission  
11 annually for a seasonal truck permit for roads under its authority  
12 before seasonal weight restrictions are effective. The county road  
13 commission shall issue a seasonal truck permit for each public  
14 utility vehicle or vehicle configuration the public utility or  
15 subcontractor anticipates will be utilized for nonemergency public  
16 utility work. The county road commission may charge a fee for a  
17 seasonal truck permit that does not exceed the administrative costs  
18 incurred for the permit. The seasonal truck permit shall contain  
19 all of the following:

20 (A) The seasonal period requested by the public utility or  
21 subcontractor during which the permit is valid.

22 (B) A unique identification number for the vehicle and any  
23 vehicle configuration to be covered on the seasonal truck permit  
24 requested by the public utility or subcontractor.

25 (C) A requirement that travel on restricted roads during  
26 weight restrictions will be minimized and only utilized when  
27 necessary to perform public utility work using the public utility



1 vehicle or vehicle configuration and that nonrestricted roads shall  
2 be used for travel when available and for routine travel.

3 (D) A requirement that in the case of a subcontractor the  
4 permit is only valid while the subcontractor vehicle is being  
5 operated in the performance of public utility work.

6 (E) A requirement that a subcontractor vehicle or vehicle  
7 configuration shall display signage on the outside of the vehicle  
8 to identify the vehicle as operating on behalf of the public  
9 utility.

10 (ii) If the county road commission requires notification, the  
11 county road commission shall provide a notification application for  
12 the public utility or its subcontractor to use when requesting  
13 access to operate on restricted roads and the public utility or its  
14 subcontractor shall provide notification to the county road  
15 commission, via facsimile or electronically, not later than 24  
16 hours before the time of the intended travel. A subcontractor using  
17 a vehicle on a restricted road shall have a copy of any  
18 notification provided to a county road commission in the  
19 subcontractor's possession while performing the relevant  
20 nonemergency work. Notwithstanding this subsection or an agreement  
21 under this subsection, if the county road commission determines  
22 that the condition of a particular road under its jurisdiction  
23 makes it unusable, the county road commission may deny access to  
24 all or any part of that road. The denial shall be made and  
25 communicated via facsimile or electronically to the public utility  
26 or its subcontractor within 24 hours after receiving notification  
27 that the public utility or subcontractors intends to perform

1 nonemergency work that requires use of that road. Any notification  
2 that is not disapproved within 24 hours after the notice is  
3 received by the county road commission is considered approved. The  
4 notification application required under this subparagraph may  
5 include all of the following information:

6 (A) The address or location of the nonemergency work.

7 (B) The date or dates of the nonemergency work.

8 (C) The route to be taken to the nonemergency work site.

9 (D) The restricted road or roads intended to be traveled upon  
10 to the nonemergency work site or sites.

11 (E) In the case of a subcontractor, the utility on whose  
12 behalf the subcontractor is performing services.

13 (7) The normal size of tires shall be the rated size as  
14 published by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load  
15 permissible for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of  
16 width of tire.

17 (8) Except as provided in this subsection and subsection (9),  
18 during the months of March, April, and May in each year, the  
19 maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements or pavements with  
20 a concrete base is reduced by 25% from the maximum axle load as  
21 specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle loads allowable on  
22 all other types of roads during these months are reduced by 35%  
23 from the maximum axle loads as specified. The maximum wheel load  
24 shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch of tire width on concrete and  
25 concrete base or 450 pounds per inch of tire width on all other  
26 roads during the period the seasonal road restrictions are in  
27 effect. Subject to subsection (5), this subsection does not apply

1 to vehicles transporting agricultural commodities or, subject to  
2 subsection (6), public utility vehicles on a highway, road, or  
3 street under the jurisdiction of a local road agency, **OR A SCHOOL**  
4 **BUS**. In addition, this subsection does not apply to a vehicle  
5 delivering propane fuel to a residence if the vehicle's propane  
6 tank is filled to not more than 50% of its capacity and the vehicle  
7 is traveling at not more than 35 miles per hour. The state  
8 transportation department and each local authority with highways  
9 and streets under its jurisdiction to which the seasonal  
10 restrictions prescribed under this subsection apply shall post all  
11 of the following information on the homepage of its website or, if  
12 a local authority does not have a website, then on the website of a  
13 statewide road association of which it is a member:

14 (a) The dates when the seasonal restrictions are in effect.

15 (b) The names of the highways and streets and portions of  
16 highways and streets to which the seasonal restrictions apply.

17 (9) The state transportation department for roads under its  
18 jurisdiction and a county road commission for roads under its  
19 jurisdiction may grant exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions  
20 for milk on specified routes when requested in writing. Approval or  
21 denial of a request for an exemption shall be given by written  
22 notice to the applicant within 30 days after the date of submission  
23 of the application. If a request is denied, the written notice  
24 shall state the reason for denial and alternate routes for which  
25 the permit may be issued. The applicant may appeal to the state  
26 transportation commission or the county road commission. These  
27 exemptions do not apply on county roads in counties that have

1 negotiated agreements with milk haulers or haulers of other  
2 commodities during periods of seasonal load limits before April 14,  
3 1993. This subsection does not limit the ability of these counties  
4 to continue to negotiate such agreements.

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

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

24 (12) The loading maximum in this subsection applies to  
25 interstate highways, and the state transportation department, or a  
26 local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction,  
27 may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the

1 operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more  
2 than 80,000 pounds that are subject to the following load maximums:

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

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

7 (c) An overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more  
8 consecutive axles equaling:

9 
$$W=500[(LN)/(N-1)+12N+36]$$

10 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more  
11 consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet  
12 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and  
13 N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except that 2  
14 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000  
15 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of  
16 tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross vehicle  
17 weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all enforcement  
18 tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semitrailer  
19 combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles, vehicles  
20 having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in excess of  
21 the vehicle gross weight determined by application of the formula  
22 in this subsection are subject to the maximum axle loads of  
23 subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in this subsection, "tandem  
24 axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road by 2 or  
25 more consecutive axles, the centers of which may be included  
26 between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced more than 40

1 inches but not more than 96 inches apart, extending across the full  
2 width of the vehicle. Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
3 vehicles transporting agricultural commodities shall have weight  
4 load maximums as set forth in this subsection.

5 (13) The axle loading maximums under subsections (1), (2),  
6 (3), and (4) are increased by 10% for vehicles transporting  
7 agricultural commodities or raw timber, excluding farm equipment  
8 and fuel, from the place of harvest or farm storage to the first  
9 point of delivery on a road in this state. However, the axle  
10 loading maximums as increased under this subsection do not alter  
11 the gross vehicle weight restrictions set forth in this act. This  
12 subsection does not apply to either of the following:

13 (a) A vehicle utilizing an interstate highway.

14 (b) A vehicle utilizing a road that is subject to seasonal  
15 weight restrictions under subsection (8) during the time that the  
16 seasonal weight restrictions are in effect.

17 (14) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
18 vehicle that has a gross weight of 80,000 pounds or less and that  
19 is operated by an engine that is fueled wholly or partially by  
20 compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the axle loading  
21 maximums under subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) and the weight  
22 load maximums under subsection (12) by an amount equal to the  
23 difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the  
24 natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and the  
25 weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. The amount  
26 by which a vehicle described in this subsection may exceed the axle  
27 loading maximums under subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) and the

1 weight load maximums under subsection (12) shall not exceed 2,000  
2 pounds.

3 (15) As used in this section:

4 (a) "Agricultural commodities" means those plants and animals  
5 useful to human beings produced by agriculture and includes, but is  
6 not limited to, forages and sod crops, grains and feed crops, field  
7 crops, dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products,  
8 cervidae, livestock, including breeding and grazing, equine, fish,  
9 and other aquacultural products, bees and bee products, berries,  
10 herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock,  
11 mushrooms, fertilizer, livestock bedding, farming equipment, fuel  
12 for agricultural use, and maple sap. Agricultural commodities do  
13 not include trees or lumber.

14 (b) "Emergency public utility work" means work performed to  
15 restore public utility service or to eliminate a danger to the  
16 public due to a natural disaster, an act of God, or an emergency  
17 situation, whether or not a public official has declared an  
18 emergency.

19 (c) "Farm storage" means any of the following:

20 (i) An edifice, silo, tank, bin, crib, interstice, or  
21 protected enclosed structure, or more than 1 edifice, silo, tank,  
22 bin, crib, interstice, or protected enclosed structure located  
23 contiguous to each other.

24 (ii) An open environment used for the purpose of temporarily  
25 storing a crop.

26 (d) "Public utility" means a public utility under the  
27 jurisdiction of the public service commission or a transmission

1 company.

2 (e) "Public utility vehicle" means a vehicle owned or operated  
3 by a public utility or operated by a subcontractor on behalf of a  
4 public utility.

5 (f) "Transmission company" means either an affiliated  
6 transmission company or an independent transmission company as  
7 those terms are defined in section 2 of the electric transmission  
8 line certification act, 1995 PA 30, MCL 460.562.

9 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
10 after the date it is enacted into law.