HOUSE BILL No. 4121

February 2, 1993, Introduced by Reps. Gernaat, Harder, Alley, Martin, Rhead, Allen, Gnodtke, Walberg, Nye, Kukuk, Llewellyn, Shugars, Goschka, London, Cropsey, Middleton, McNutt, DeLange, Dalman, Bobier, Gustafson, McBryde, Baade, Clack, McManus, Bodem, Hill, Bullard, Randall, Byrum, Stille, Brackenridge, Bender, Hoffman, Gagliardi, Horton, Voorhees, Fitzgerald, Oxender, Dolan and Lowe and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend section 722 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended

"Michigan vehicle code,"

as amended by Act No. 346 of the Public Acts of 1988, being section 257.722 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Section 1. Section 722 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, as amended by Act No. 346 of the Public Acts of 1988, being section 257.722 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 722. (1) The maximum axle load shall not exceed the number of pounds designated in the following provisions which prescribe the distance between axles:

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

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

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

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

(2) When normal loading is in effect, the state transportation department and local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may designate certain highways, or sections of those highways, where bridges and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, which designation may be revised as needed, on which the maximum tandem axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (8), on a legal combination of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be permitted on the designated highways at the gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross weight of 13,000 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight of a combination of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280 pounds, 2 tandem

axle assemblies shall be permitted on the designated highways at a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

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

(5) During the months of March, April, and May in each year, the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements, or pavements with a concrete base, shall be reduced by 25% from the maximum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle loads allowable on all other types of roads during these months shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect. A VEHICLE THAT IS USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF MILK FROM THE PRODUCER TO THE DEALER OR PROCESSOR IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

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

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

(8) The loading maximum in this subsection shall apply to interstate highways, and the state transportation department, or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more than 80,000 pounds which are subject to the following load maximums:

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

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

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

$$W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semi-trailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles, vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by application of the formula in this subsection shall be subject to the maximum axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in this subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the centers of which may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches, but not more than 96 inches, apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.