SENATE BILL NO. 1303

September 17, 1998, Introduced by Senators MILLER, GEAKE, HOFFMAN, DE BEAUSSAERT, PETERS and JAYE and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Tourism.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "Michigan vehicle code,"

by amending section 722 (MCL 257.722), as amended by 1993 PA 22.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 722. (1) The UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002, THE maximum
- 2 axle load shall not exceed the number of pounds designated in the
- 3 following provisions which prescribe the distance between axles:
- 4 (a) When the axle spacing is 9 feet or more between axles,
- 5 the maximum axle load shall not exceed 18,000 pounds for vehicles
- 6 equipped with high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.
- 7 (b) When the axle spacing is less than 9 feet between 2
- 8 axles but more than 3-1/2 feet, the maximum axle load shall not
- 9 exceed 13,000 pounds for high pressure pneumatic or balloon

10 tires.

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- 1 (c) When 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 (2) When UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002, WHEN normal loading is
- 6 in effect, the state transportation department and local authori-
- 7 ties with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may desig-
- 8 nate certain highways, or sections of those highways, where
- 9 bridges and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, which
- 10 designation may be revised as needed, on which the maximum tandem
- 11 axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle
- 12 of the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any
- 13 axle of the assembly.
- 14 (3) Except as provided in subsection (8), on a legal combi-
- 15 nation of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be permit-
- 16 ted on the designated highways at the gross permissible weight of
- 17 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet
- 18 of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem axle assembly
- 19 in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross weight of 13,000
- 20 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight of a combination
- 21 of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280 pounds, 2 tandem
- 22 axle assemblies shall be permitted on the designated highways at
- 23 a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is
- 24 no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly. THIS
- 25 SUBSECTION SHALL APPLY UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002.

- 1 (4) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2003, THE MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE
- 2 WEIGHT FOR THE OPERATION OF VEHICLES SHALL NOT BE MORE THAN
- 3 80,000 POUNDS AND SHALL NOT EXCEED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
- 4 (A) TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS ON 1 AXLE.
- 5 (B) A TANDEM AXLE WEIGHT OF 17,000 POUNDS PER AXLE INCLUDING
- 6 ALL ENFORCEMENT TOLERANCES.
- 7 (C) AN OVERALL GROSS WEIGHT ON A GROUP OF 2 OR MORE CONSECU-
- 8 TIVE AXLES EQUALING:

9 W = 500
$$/LN + 12N + 36$$
\
10 $N-1$

- 11 WHERE W = OVERALL GROSS WEIGHT ON A GROUP OF 2 OR MORE CONSECU-
- 12 TIVE AXLES TO THE NEAREST 500 POUNDS, L = DISTANCE IN FEET
- 13 BETWEEN THE EXTREME OF A GROUP OF 2 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE AXLES,
- 14 AND N = NUMBER OF AXLES IN THE GROUP UNDER CONSIDERATION.
- 15 HOWEVER, 2 CONSECUTIVE SETS OF TANDEM AXLES MAY CARRY A GROSS
- 16 LOAD OF 17,000 POUNDS PER AXLE EACH IF THE FIRST AND LAST AXLES
- 17 OF THE CONSECUTIVE SETS OF TANDEM AXLES ARE NOT LESS THAN 36 FEET
- 18 APART, AND THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT DOES NOT EXCEED 80,000 POUNDS
- 19 INCLUDING ALL ENFORCEMENT TOLERANCES.
- 20 (5) -(4) The normal size of tires shall be the rated size
- 21 as published by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load
- 22 permissible for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of
- 23 width of tire.
- 24 (6) $\frac{(5)}{(5)}$ During the months of March, April, and May in each
- 25 year, the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements, or
- 26 pavements with a concrete base, shall be reduced by 25% from the
- 27 maximum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum
- 28 axle loads allowable on all other types of roads during these

- 1 months shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as
- 2 specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds
- 3 per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450
- 4 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the
- 5 period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect. Upon
- 6 receipt of a written application and good cause being shown, the
- 7 state transportation department, for roads under their jurisdic-
- 8 tion, and county road commissions, for roads under their juris-
- 9 diction, may permit exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions
- 10 for milk on specified routes when requested. Approval or denial
- 11 of a request for an exemption shall be given by written notice to
- 12 the applicant within 30 days after the date of submission of the
- 13 application. If a request is denied, the written notice shall
- 14 state the reason for denial and alternate routes for which the
- 15 permit may be issued. The applicant shall have the right to
- 16 appeal to the state transportation commission or the county road
- 17 commission. These exemptions shall not apply on county roads in
- 18 counties which have negotiated agreements with milk haulers, or
- 19 haulers of other commodities, during periods of seasonal load
- 20 limits in years prior to the effective date of this 1993 amenda-
- 21 tory act. This 1993 amendatory act shall not limit the ability
- 22 of these counties to continue to negotiate such agreements.
- 23 (7) $\overline{(6)}$ The state transportation department, or a local
- 24 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may
- 25 suspend the restrictions imposed by this section when and where,
- 26 in its discretion, conditions of the highways or the public
- 27 health, safety, and welfare so warrant, and may impose the

- 1 restricted loading requirements of this section on designated
- 2 highways at any other time that the conditions of the highway may
- 3 require.
- 4 (8) $\frac{(7)}{(7)}$ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the
- 5 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-
- 6 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing indi-
- 7 vidual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the
- 8 axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, ON AND
- 9 UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002, the gross axle weight shall be deter-
- 10 mined by weighing individual axles or by weighing a group of
- 11 axles and dividing the gross weight of the group of axles by the
- 12 number of axles in the group. Pursuant to subsection $\frac{(8)}{(4)}$
- 13 OR (9) AS APPLICABLE, the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or
- 14 more axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or
- 15 several axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group
- 16 shall be the overall gross weight of the group.
- 17 (9) $\frac{(8)}{(8)}$ The loading maximum in this subsection shall apply
- 18 to interstate highways, and the state transportation department,
- 19 or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdic-
- 20 tion, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the
- 21 operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more
- 22 than 80,000 pounds which are subject to the following load
- 23 maximums:
- 24 (a) Twenty thousand pounds on any 1 axle, including all
- 25 enforcement tolerances.
- 26 (b) A tandem axle weight of 34,000 pounds including all
- 27 enforcement tolerances.

1 (c) An overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more 2 consecutive axles equaling: 3 4 W = 500/LN + 12N + 366 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-7 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet 8 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles, 9 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except 10 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 11 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive 12 sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross 13 vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all 14 enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semi-15 trailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles, 16 vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in 17 excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by application of 18 the formula in this subsection shall be subject to the maximum 19 axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in this 20 subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmit-21 ted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the centers of 22 which may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes

23 spaced more than 40 inches, but not more than 96 inches, apart,

24 extending across the full width of the vehicle. THIS SUBSECTION

25 SHALL APPLY UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2002.