

HOUSE BILL No. 4503

April 20, 1999, Introduced by Reps. Switalski, Woodward, Quarles, Thomas and DeHart and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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 JANUARY 1, 2004, THE maximum axle
2 load shall not exceed the number of pounds designated in the fol-
3 lowing provisions which prescribe the distance between axles:
4 (a) ~~When~~ IF the axle spacing is 9 feet or more between
5 axles, the maximum axle load shall not exceed 18,000 pounds for
6 vehicles equipped with high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.
7 (b) ~~When~~ IF 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.

1 (c) ~~When~~ IF axles are spaced less than 3-1/2 feet apart,
2 the 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 JANUARY 1, 2004, WHEN normal loading is in
6 effect, the state transportation department and local authorities
7 with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may designate
8 certain highways, or sections of those highways, where bridges
9 and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, which desig-
10 nation may be revised as needed, on which the maximum tandem axle
11 assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle of
12 the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle
13 of the assembly.

14 (3) Except as provided in subsection ~~(8)~~ (9), on a legal
15 combination of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be
16 permitted on the designated highways at the gross permissible
17 weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle
18 within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem
19 axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross
20 weight of 13,000 pounds per axle. ~~When~~ IF the maximum gross
21 weight of a combination of vehicles with load does not exceed
22 73,280 pounds, 2 tandem axle assemblies shall be permitted on the
23 designated highways at a gross permissible weight of 16,000
24 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any
25 axle of the assembly. THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES UNTIL JANUARY 1,
26 2004.

1 (4) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2004, 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:

$$9 \qquad \qquad \qquad W = 500 \quad \frac{\sqrt{LN} + 12N + 36}{\sqrt{N-1}}$$

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) ~~(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 jurisdic-
9 tion, 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~~ THAT have negotiated agreements with milk haul-
19 ers, or haulers of other commodities, during periods of seasonal
20 load limits in years ~~prior to the effective date of this 1993~~
21 ~~amendatory act~~ BEFORE APRIL 14, 1993. ~~This 1993 amendatory act~~
22 ~~shall not limit the ability of these counties to~~ COUNTIES MAY
23 continue to negotiate such agreements AFTER APRIL 14, 1993.

24 (7) ~~(6)~~ The state transportation department, or a local
25 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may
26 suspend the restrictions imposed by this section when and where,
27 in its discretion, conditions of the highways or the public

1 health, safety, and welfare so warrant, and may impose the
2 restricted loading requirements of this section on designated
3 highways at any other time that the conditions of the highway may
4 require.

5 (8) ~~(7)~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the
6 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-
7 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing indi-
8 vidual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the
9 axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, ON AND
10 UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2004, the gross axle weight shall be determined
11 by weighing individual axles or by weighing a group of axles and
12 dividing the gross weight of the group of axles by the number of
13 axles in the group. Pursuant to subsection ~~(8)~~ (4) OR (9) AS
14 APPLICABLE, the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more
15 axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or several
16 axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group shall
17 be the overall gross weight of the group.

18 (9) ~~(8)~~ The loading maximum in this subsection ~~shall~~
19 ~~apply~~ APPLIES to interstate highways, and the state transporta-
20 tion department, or a local authority with respect to highways
21 under its jurisdiction, may designate a highway, or a section of
22 a highway, for the operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle
23 weight of not more than 80,000 pounds ~~which~~ THAT are subject to
24 the following load maximums:

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

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

3 (c) An overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
4 tive axles equaling:

5

6
$$W = 500 \frac{\sqrt{LN} + 12N + 36}{\sqrt{N-1}}$$

7
8 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
9 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet

10 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,
11 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except
12 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of
13 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive
14 sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross
15 vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all
16 enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semi-
17 trailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles,
18 vehicles ~~having~~ THAT HAVE a gross weight in excess of 80,000
19 pounds or in excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by
20 application of the formula in this subsection ~~shall be~~ ARE
21 subject to the maximum axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and
22 (3). As used in this subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the
23 total weight transmitted to the road by 2 or more consecutive
24 axles, the centers of which may be included between parallel
25 transverse vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches, but not
26 more than 96 inches, apart, extending across the full width of
27 the vehicle. THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2004.