

SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 274

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 719 (MCL 257.719), as amended by 2012 PA 282.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 719. (1) A vehicle unloaded or with load shall not exceed  
2 a height of 13 feet 6 inches. The owner of a vehicle that collides  
3 with a lawfully established bridge or viaduct is liable for all  
4 damage and injury resulting from a collision caused by the height  
5 of the vehicle, whether the clearance of the bridge or viaduct is  
6 posted or not.

7           (2) Lengths described in this subsection shall be known as the  
8 normal length maximum. Except as provided in subsection (3), the  
9 following vehicles and combinations of vehicles shall not be  
10 operated on a highway in this state in excess of these lengths:

11           (a) Subject to subsection ~~(8)~~, **(9)**, any single vehicle: 40

1 feet; a crib vehicle on which logs are loaded lengthwise of the  
2 vehicle: 42.5 feet; any single bus or motor home: 45 feet.

3 (b) Articulated buses: 65 feet.

4 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
5 combination of a truck and semitrailer or trailer, or a truck  
6 tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or truck tractor and semitrailer  
7 or trailer, designed and used exclusively to transport ~~assembled~~  
8 ~~motor vehicles or bodies,~~ recreational vehicles, or boats: 65  
9 feet. A combination of a truck and semitrailer or trailer, or a  
10 truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or a truck tractor and  
11 semitrailer or trailer designed and used to transport boats from  
12 the manufacturer, or a stinger-steered combination: 75 feet. The  
13 load on the combinations of vehicles described in this subdivision  
14 may extend an additional 3 feet beyond the front and 4 feet beyond  
15 the rear of the combinations of vehicles. Retractable extensions  
16 used to support and secure the load that do not extend beyond the  
17 allowable overhang for the front and rear shall not be included in  
18 determining length of a loaded vehicle or vehicle combination.

19 (d) Truck tractor and semitrailer combinations: no overall  
20 length, the semitrailer: 50 feet.

21 (e) Truck and semitrailer or trailer: 59 feet.

22 (f) Except as provided in subdivision (g), truck tractor,  
23 semitrailer, and trailer, or truck tractor and 2 semitrailers: 59  
24 feet.

25 (g) A truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or a truck  
26 tractor and 2 semitrailers, in which no semitrailer or trailer is  
27 more than 28-1/2 feet long: 65 feet. This subdivision only applies

1 while the vehicle is being used for a business purpose reasonably  
2 related to picking up or delivering a load and only if each  
3 semitrailer or trailer is equipped with a device or system capable  
4 of mechanically dumping construction materials or dumping  
5 construction materials by force of gravity.

6 (h) More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially assembled,  
7 in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full  
8 mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the  
9 vehicles in combination: 55 feet.

10 (i) A recreational vehicle that has its own motive power, in  
11 combination with a trailer: 65 feet or, if the operator of the  
12 recreational vehicle has a group commercial motor vehicle  
13 designation on his or her operator's or chauffeur's license, 75  
14 feet.

15 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the following vehicles and  
16 combinations of vehicles shall not be operated on a designated  
17 highway of this state in excess of these lengths:

18 (a) Truck tractor and semitrailer combinations: no overall  
19 length limit, the semitrailer 53 feet. All semitrailers longer than  
20 50 feet shall have a wheelbase of 37.5 to 40.5 feet plus or minus  
21 0.5 feet, measured from the kingpin coupling to the center of the  
22 rear axle or the center of the rear axle assembly. City, village,  
23 or county authorities may prohibit stops of vehicles with a  
24 semitrailer longer than 50 feet within their jurisdiction unless  
25 the stop occurs along appropriately designated routes, or is  
26 necessary for emergency purposes or to reach shippers, receivers,  
27 warehouses, and terminals along designated routes.

1 (b) Truck and semitrailer or trailer combinations: 65 feet,  
2 except that a person may operate a truck and semitrailer or trailer  
3 designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and tree length  
4 poles that does not exceed an overall length of 70 feet or a crib  
5 vehicle and semitrailer or trailer designed and used to transport  
6 saw logs that does not exceed an overall length of 75 feet. A crib  
7 vehicle and semitrailer or trailer designed to and used to  
8 transport saw logs shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight of  
9 164,000 pounds. A person may operate a truck tractor and  
10 semitrailer designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and  
11 tree length wooden poles with a load overhang to the rear of the  
12 semitrailer which does not exceed 6 feet if the semitrailer does  
13 not exceed 50 feet in length.

14 (c) Notwithstanding subsection ~~(4)(d)~~, **(5)(D)**, a truck tractor  
15 with a log slasher unit and a log saw unit: no overall limit if the  
16 length of each unit does not exceed 28-1/2 feet, or the overall  
17 length of the log slasher unit and the log saw unit, as measured  
18 from the front of the first towed unit to the rear of the second  
19 towed unit while the units are coupled together, does not exceed 58  
20 feet. The coupling devices of the truck tractor and units set forth  
21 in this subdivision shall meet the requirements established under  
22 the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to  
23 480.25.

24 (d) Truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, or truck tractor,  
25 semitrailer, and trailer combinations: no overall length limit, if  
26 the length of each semitrailer or trailer does not exceed 28-1/2  
27 feet each, or the overall length of the semitrailer and trailer, or

1 2 semitrailers as measured from the front of the first towed unit  
2 to the rear of the second towed unit while the units are coupled  
3 together does not exceed 58 feet.

4 (e) More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially assembled,  
5 in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full  
6 mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the  
7 vehicles in combination: ~~75~~—97 feet.

8 (f) Truck tractor and lowboy semitrailer combinations: no  
9 maximum overall length, if the lowboy semitrailer does not exceed  
10 59 feet, except as otherwise permitted under this subdivision. A  
11 lowboy semitrailer wheelbase shall not exceed 55 feet as measured  
12 from the kingpin coupling to the center of the rear axle. A lowboy  
13 semitrailer more than 59 feet in length shall not operate with more  
14 than any combination of 4 axles on the lowboy unless an oversized  
15 load permit is issued by the state transportation department or a  
16 local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction. As  
17 used in this subdivision, "lowboy semitrailer" means a flatbed  
18 semitrailer with a depressed section that has the specific purpose  
19 of being lowered and raised for loading and unloading.

20 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A  
21 COMBINATION OF A TRUCK AND SEMITRAILER, OR TRUCK TRACTOR AND  
22 SEMITRAILER, USED EXCLUSIVELY TO TRANSPORT ASSEMBLED MOTOR VEHICLES  
23 OR BODIES THAT HAVE A TRAILER LENGTH OF 53 FEET MAY HAVE A LOAD  
24 THAT EXTENDS AN ADDITIONAL 3 FEET BEYOND THE FRONT OF THE TRAILER  
25 AND 4 FEET BEYOND THE REAR OF THE TRAILER. RETRACTABLE EXTENSIONS  
26 USED TO SUPPORT AND SECURE THE LOAD THAT DO NOT EXTEND BEYOND THE  
27 ALLOWABLE OVERHANG FOR THE FRONT AND REAR SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN

1 DETERMINING LENGTH OF A LOADED VEHICLE OR VEHICLE COMBINATION. THE  
2 TOTAL OVERALL LENGTH LOADED OF THE COMBINATION OF VEHICLES  
3 DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT EXCEED 79 FEET.

4 (5) ~~(4)~~—The following combinations and movements are  
5 prohibited:

6 (a) A truck shall not haul more than 1 trailer or semitrailer,  
7 and a truck tractor shall not haul more than 2 semitrailers or 1  
8 semitrailer and 1 trailer in combination at any 1 time, except that  
9 a farm tractor may haul 2 wagons or trailers, or garbage and refuse  
10 haulers may, during daylight hours, haul up to 4 trailers for  
11 garbage and refuse collection purposes, not exceeding in any  
12 combination a total length of 55 feet and at a speed limit not to  
13 exceed 15 miles per hour.

14 (b) A combination of vehicles or a vehicle shall not have more  
15 than 11 axles, except when operating under a valid permit issued by  
16 the state transportation department or a local authority with  
17 respect to a highway under its jurisdiction.

18 (c) Any combination of vehicles not specifically authorized  
19 under this section is prohibited.

20 (d) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), a combination of  
21 2 semitrailers pulled by a truck tractor, unless each semitrailer  
22 uses a fifth wheel connecting assembly that conforms to the  
23 requirements of the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181,  
24 MCL 480.11 to 480.25.

25 (e) A vehicle or a combination of vehicles shall not carry a  
26 load extending more than 3 feet beyond the front of the lead  
27 vehicle.

1 (f) A vehicle described in subsections (2)(e) and (3)(e)  
2 employing triple saddle mounts unless all wheels that are in  
3 contact with the roadway have operating brakes.

4 (6) ~~(5)~~—All combinations of vehicles under this section shall  
5 employ connecting assemblies and lighting devices that are in  
6 compliance with the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181,  
7 MCL 480.11 to 480.25.

8 (7) ~~(6)~~—The total gross weight of a truck tractor,  
9 semitrailer, and trailer combination or a truck tractor and 2  
10 semitrailers combination that exceeds 59 feet in length shall not  
11 exceed a ratio of 400 pounds per engine net horsepower delivered to  
12 clutch or its equivalent specified in the handbook published by the  
13 ~~society~~ **SOCIETY** of ~~automotive engineers, inc.~~ **AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS,**  
14 **INC.** (SAE), 1977 edition.

15 (8) ~~(7)~~—A person who violates this section is responsible for  
16 a civil infraction. The owner of the vehicle may be charged with a  
17 violation of this section.

18 (9) ~~(8)~~—The provisions in subsections (2)(a) and (3)(b)  
19 prescribing the length of a crib vehicle on which logs are loaded  
20 lengthwise do not apply unless 23 USC 127(d) is amended to allow  
21 crib vehicles carrying logs to be loaded as described in this  
22 section.

23 (10) ~~(9)~~—As used in this section:

24 (a) "Designated highway" means a highway approved by the state  
25 transportation department or a local authority with respect to a  
26 highway under its jurisdiction.

27 (b) "Length" means the total length of a vehicle, or

1 combination of vehicles, including any load the vehicle is  
2 carrying. Length does not include devices described in 23 CFR  
3 658.16 and 23 CFR part 658, appendix d, 23 CFR 658.16 and 23 CFR  
4 part 658, appendix d, as on file with the secretary of state are  
5 adopted by reference. A safety or energy conservation device shall  
6 be excluded from a determination of length only if it is not  
7 designed or used for the carrying of cargo, freight, or equipment.  
8 Semitrailers and trailers shall be measured from the front vertical  
9 plane of the foremost transverse load supporting structure to the  
10 rearmost transverse load supporting structure. Vehicle components  
11 not excluded by law shall be included in the measurement of the  
12 length, height, and width of the vehicle.

13 (c) "Stinger-steered combinations" means a truck tractor and  
14 semitrailer combination in which the fifth wheel is located on a  
15 drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the power  
16 unit.

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