

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 836**

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

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

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

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

8           (b) If the axle spacing is less than 9 feet between 2 axles  
9 but more than 3-1/2 feet, the maximum axle load shall not exceed  
10 13,000 pounds for high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.

1 (c) If the 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 normal loading is in effect, the state transportation  
6 department, or a local authority with respect to highways under its  
7 jurisdiction, may designate certain highways, or sections of those  
8 highways, where bridges and road surfaces are adequate for heavier  
9 loading, and revise a designation as needed, on which the maximum  
10 tandem axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any  
11 axle of the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of  
12 any axle of the assembly.

13 (3) ~~On a legal~~ **A** combination of vehicles ~~, only~~ **MAY OPERATE ON**  
14 **DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS WITH NOT MORE THAN** 1 tandem axle assembly ~~is~~  
15 ~~permitted on the designated highways at the~~ **HAVING A** gross  
16 ~~permissible~~ weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other  
17 axle within 9 feet of ~~any axle of the assembly. , and if no other~~  
18 ~~tandem axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross~~  
19 ~~weight of 13,000 pounds per axle.~~ On a combination of truck tractor  
20 and semitrailer having not more than 5 axles, 2 consecutive tandem  
21 axle assemblies ~~are permitted~~ **MAY OPERATE** on the designated  
22 highways at a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle,  
23 if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of ~~the~~ **EITHER**  
24 assembly.

25 (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), on a combination of truck  
26 tractor and semitrailer having not more than 5 axles, 2 consecutive  
27 sets of tandem axles may carry a gross permissible weight of not to

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

14 (5) The seasonal reductions described under subsection (8) to  
15 the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirement of  
16 subsection (12) do not apply to a person hauling agricultural  
17 commodities if the person who picks up or delivers the agricultural  
18 commodity either from a farm or to a farm notifies the county road  
19 commission for roads under its authority not less than 48 hours  
20 before the pickup or delivery of the time and location of the  
21 pickup or delivery. The county road commission shall issue a permit  
22 to the person and charge a fee that does not exceed the  
23 administrative costs incurred. The permit shall contain all of the  
24 following:

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

26 (b) The date and time period requested by the person who picks  
27 up or delivers the agricultural commodities during which the load

1 may be delivered or picked up.

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

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

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

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

11 (i) If required by the county road commission, the public  
12 utility or its subcontractor shall notify the county road  
13 commission, as soon as practical, of the location of the emergency  
14 public utility work and provide a statement that the vehicles that  
15 were used to perform the emergency utility work may have exceeded  
16 the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirements of  
17 subsection (12) as reduced under subsection (8). The notification  
18 may be made via facsimile or electronically.

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

22 (b) For nonemergency public utility work on restricted roads,  
23 as follows:

24 (i) If the county road commission requires, the public utility  
25 or its subcontractor shall apply to the county road commission  
26 annually for a seasonal truck permit for roads under its authority  
27 before seasonal weight restrictions are effective. The county road

1 commission shall issue a seasonal truck permit for each public  
2 utility vehicle or vehicle configuration the public utility or  
3 subcontractor anticipates will be utilized for nonemergency public  
4 utility work. The county road commission may charge a fee for a  
5 seasonal truck permit that does not exceed the administrative costs  
6 incurred for the permit. The seasonal truck permit shall contain  
7 all of the following:

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

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

13 (C) A requirement that travel on restricted roads during  
14 weight restrictions will be minimized and only utilized when  
15 necessary to perform public utility work using the public utility  
16 vehicle or vehicle configuration and that nonrestricted roads shall  
17 be used for travel when available and for routine travel.

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

21 (E) A requirement that a subcontractor vehicle or vehicle  
22 configuration shall display signage on the outside of the vehicle  
23 to identify the vehicle as operating on behalf of the public  
24 utility.

25 (ii) If the county road commission requires notification, the  
26 county road commission shall provide a notification application for  
27 the public utility or its subcontractor to use when requesting

1 access to operate on restricted roads and the public utility or its  
2 subcontractor shall provide notification to the county road  
3 commission, via facsimile or electronically, not later than 24  
4 hours before the time of the intended travel. A subcontractor using  
5 a vehicle on a restricted road shall have a copy of any  
6 notification provided to a county road commission in the  
7 subcontractor's possession while performing the relevant  
8 nonemergency work. Notwithstanding this subsection or an agreement  
9 under this subsection, if the county road commission determines  
10 that the condition of a particular road under its jurisdiction  
11 makes it unusable, the county road commission may deny access to  
12 all or any part of that road. The denial shall be made and  
13 communicated via facsimile or electronically to the public utility  
14 or its subcontractor within 24 hours after receiving notification  
15 that the public utility or subcontractors intends to perform  
16 nonemergency work that requires use of that road. Any notification  
17 that is not disapproved within 24 hours after the notice is  
18 received by the county road commission is considered approved. The  
19 notification application required under this subparagraph may  
20 include all of the following information:

- 21 (A) The address or location of the nonemergency work.  
22 (B) The date or dates of the nonemergency work.  
23 (C) The route to be taken to the nonemergency work site.  
24 (D) The restricted road or roads intended to be traveled upon  
25 to the nonemergency work site or sites.  
26 (E) In the case of a subcontractor, the utility on whose  
27 behalf the subcontractor is performing services.

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

5           (8) Except as provided in this subsection and subsection (9),  
6 during the months of March, April, and May in each year, the  
7 maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements or pavements with  
8 a concrete base is reduced by 25% from the maximum axle load as  
9 specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle loads allowable on  
10 all other types of roads during these months are reduced by 35%  
11 from the maximum axle loads as specified. The maximum wheel load  
12 shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch of tire width on concrete and  
13 concrete base or 450 pounds per inch of tire width on all other  
14 roads during the period the seasonal road restrictions are in  
15 effect. Subject to subsection (5), this subsection does not apply  
16 to vehicles transporting agricultural commodities or, subject to  
17 subsection (6), public utility vehicles on a highway, road, or  
18 street under the jurisdiction of a local road agency. In addition,  
19 this subsection does not apply to a vehicle delivering propane fuel  
20 to a residence if the vehicle's propane tank is filled to not more  
21 than 50% of its capacity and the vehicle is traveling at not more  
22 than 35 miles per hour. The state transportation department and  
23 each local authority with highways and streets under its  
24 jurisdiction to which the seasonal restrictions prescribed under  
25 this subsection apply shall post all of the following information  
26 on the homepage of its website or, if a local authority does not  
27 have a website, then on the website of a statewide road association

1 of which it is a member:

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

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

5 (9) The state transportation department for roads under its  
6 jurisdiction and a county road commission for roads under its  
7 jurisdiction may grant exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions  
8 for milk on specified routes when requested in writing. Approval or  
9 denial of a request for an exemption shall be given by written  
10 notice to the applicant within 30 days after the date of submission  
11 of the application. If a request is denied, the written notice  
12 shall state the reason for denial and alternate routes for which  
13 the permit may be issued. The applicant may appeal to the state  
14 transportation commission or the county road commission. These  
15 exemptions do not apply on county roads in counties that have  
16 negotiated agreements with milk haulers or haulers of other  
17 commodities during periods of seasonal load limits before April 14,  
18 1993. This subsection does not limit the ability of these counties  
19 to continue to negotiate such agreements.

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

27 (11) For the purpose of enforcing this act, the gross vehicle



1 weight of a single vehicle and load or a combination of vehicles  
 2 and loads shall be determined by weighing individual axles or  
 3 groups of axles, and the total weight on all the axles shall be the  
 4 gross vehicle weight. In addition, the gross axle weight shall be  
 5 determined by weighing individual axles or by weighing a group of  
 6 axles and dividing the gross weight of the group of axles by the  
 7 number of axles in the group. For purposes of subsection (12), the  
 8 overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more axles shall be  
 9 determined by weighing individual axles or several axles, and the  
 10 total weight of all the axles in the group shall be the overall  
 11 gross weight of the group.

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

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

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

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

24 
$$W=500[(LN)/(N-1)+12N+36]$$

25 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more  
 26 consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet

1 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and  
2  $N$  = number of axles in the group under consideration; except that 2  
3 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000  
4 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of  
5 tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross vehicle  
6 weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all enforcement  
7 tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semitrailer  
8 combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles, vehicles  
9 having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in excess of  
10 the vehicle gross weight determined by application of the formula  
11 in this subsection are subject to the maximum axle loads of  
12 subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in this subsection, "tandem  
13 axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road by 2 or  
14 more consecutive axles, the centers of which may be included  
15 between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced more than 40  
16 inches but not more than 96 inches apart, extending across the full  
17 width of the vehicle. Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
18 vehicles transporting agricultural commodities shall have weight  
19 load maximums as set forth in this subsection.

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

1 (a) A vehicle utilizing an interstate highway.

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

5 (14) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
6 vehicle that has a gross weight of 80,000 pounds or less and that  
7 is operated by an engine that is fueled wholly or partially by  
8 compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the axle loading  
9 maximums under subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) and the weight  
10 load maximums under subsection (12) by an amount equal to the  
11 difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the  
12 natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and the  
13 weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. The amount  
14 by which a vehicle described in this subsection may exceed the axle  
15 loading maximums under subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) and the  
16 weight load maximums under subsection (12) shall not exceed 2,000  
17 pounds.

18 (15) As used in this section:

19 (a) "Agricultural commodities" means those plants and animals  
20 useful to human beings produced by agriculture and includes, but is  
21 not limited to, forages and sod crops, grains and feed crops, field  
22 crops, dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products,  
23 cervidae, livestock, including breeding and grazing, equine, fish,  
24 and other aquacultural products, bees and bee products, berries,  
25 herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock,  
26 mushrooms, fertilizer, livestock bedding, farming equipment, fuel  
27 for agricultural use, and maple sap. Agricultural commodities do

1 not include trees or lumber.

2 (b) "Emergency public utility work" means work performed to  
3 restore public utility service or to eliminate a danger to the  
4 public due to a natural disaster, an act of God, or an emergency  
5 situation, whether or not a public official has declared an  
6 emergency.

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

8 (i) An edifice, silo, tank, bin, crib, interstice, or  
9 protected enclosed structure, or more than 1 edifice, silo, tank,  
10 bin, crib, interstice, or protected enclosed structure located  
11 contiguous to each other.

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

14 (d) "Public utility" means a public utility under the  
15 jurisdiction of the public service commission or a transmission  
16 company.

17 (e) "Public utility vehicle" means a vehicle owned or operated  
18 by a public utility or operated by a subcontractor on behalf of a  
19 public utility.

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

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