

Legislative Analysis



ROADS AND HIGHWAYS TO WHICH SEASONAL WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS DO NOT APPLY

House Bill 5290 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Jack O'Malley
Committee: Transportation
Revised 9-27-21

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5290 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to change how information regarding seasonal weight restrictions on roads is presented to the public by requiring road authorities to post the names of the highways and streets that are *not* subject to those restrictions, rather than posting the names of those that are. The bill also would allow this information to be presented in the form of an electronic map.

The Michigan Vehicle Code establishes various vehicle weight limits (e.g., maximum axle loads, maximum wheel loads, and gross vehicle weights) for vehicles driven on Michigan roads. With some exceptions, under what is sometimes referred to as Michigan's "frost law," maximum allowable axle loads and wheel loads are reduced as specified during the months of March, April, and May, when the spring thaw-and-freeze cycle makes roads more susceptible to damage from heavy vehicles. For example, maximum axle loads are reduced by 25% on concrete paved roads or those with concrete bases and 35% on all other types of roads.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local road commissions must post on their websites information about when and where seasonal restrictions are in effect for roads under their jurisdiction. This now means posting the dates when the seasonal restrictions are in effect and the names of the highways and streets (and portions of them) to which the seasonal restrictions apply.

The bill would still require MDOT and local road commissions to post the dates when the seasonal restrictions are in effect. However, instead of requiring them to post the names of highways and streets to which the seasonal restrictions apply, the bill instead would require them to post either or both of the following:

- The names of highways and streets (and portions of them) to which the seasonal restrictions *do not* apply.
- An electronic map showing the highways and streets (and portions of them) to which the seasonal restrictions *do not* apply.

MCL 257.722

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Michigan Department of Transportation indicates that the bill has no apparent fiscal impacts.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.