



HOUSE BILL No. 4844

May 16, 1995, Introduced by Rep. Porreca and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend section 722 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended "Michigan vehicle code," as amended by Act No. 22 of the Public Acts of 1993, being section 257.722 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Section 722 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of
2 1949, as amended by Act No. 22 of the Public Acts of 1993, being
3 section 257.722 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 722. (1) The maximum axle load shall not exceed the
6 number of pounds designated in the following provisions which
7 prescribe the distance between axles:

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

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

8 (c) When axles are spaced less than 3-1/2 feet apart, the
9 maximum axle load shall not exceed 9,000 pounds per axle.

10 (d) Subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) shall be known as the
11 normal loading maximum.

12 (2) When normal loading is in effect, the state transporta-
13 tion department and local authorities with respect to highways
14 under their jurisdiction may designate certain highways, or sec-
15 tions of those highways, where bridges and road surfaces are ade-
16 quate for heavier loading, which designation may be revised as
17 needed, on which the maximum tandem axle assembly loading shall
18 not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there
19 is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

20 (3) Except as provided in subsection (8), on a legal combi-
21 nation of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be permit-
22 ted on the designated highways at the gross permissible weight of
23 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet
24 of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem axle assembly
25 in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross weight of 13,000
26 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight of a combination
27 of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280 pounds, 2 tandem

1 axle assemblies shall be permitted on the designated highways at
2 a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is
3 no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

4 (4) The normal size of tires shall be the rated size as pub-
5 lished by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load permissi-
6 ble for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of width
7 of tire.

8 (5) During the months of March, April, and May in each year,
9 the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements, or pave-
10 ments with a concrete base, shall be reduced by 25% from the max-
11 imum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle
12 loads allowable on all other types of roads during these months
13 shall be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as
14 specified. The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds
15 per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450
16 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the
17 period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect. A VEHICLE
18 THAT IS USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PROPANE IS EXEMPT FROM THE
19 SEASONAL ROAD RESTRICTIONS PROVIDED BY THIS SUBSECTION. Upon
20 receipt of a written application and good cause being shown, the
21 state transportation department, for roads under their jurisdic-
22 tion, and county road commissions, for roads under their juris-
23 diction, may permit exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions
24 for milk on specified routes when requested. Approval or denial
25 of a request for an exemption shall be given by written notice to
26 the applicant within 30 days after the date of submission of the
27 application. If a request is denied, the written notice shall

1 state the reason for denial and alternate routes for which the
2 permit may be issued. The applicant shall have the right to
3 appeal to the state transportation commission or the county road
4 commission. These exemptions shall not apply on county roads in
5 counties which have negotiated agreements with milk haulers, or
6 haulers of other commodities, during periods of seasonal load
7 limits in years ~~prior to the effective date of this 1993 amenda-~~
8 ~~tory act~~ BEFORE APRIL 14, 1993. ~~This 1993 amendatory act shall~~
9 ~~not limit the~~ THE ability of these counties to continue to nego-
10 tiate such agreements SHALL NOT BE LIMITED ON OR AFTER APRIL 14,
11 1993.

12 (6) The state transportation department, or a local author-
13 ity with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may suspend
14 the restrictions imposed by this section when and where, in its
15 discretion, conditions of the highways or the public health,
16 safety, and welfare so warrant, and may impose the restricted
17 loading requirements of this section on designated highways at
18 any other time that the conditions of the highway may require.

19 (7) For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the gross
20 vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combination of
21 vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing individual
22 axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the axles
23 shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the gross axle
24 weight shall be determined by weighing individual axles or by
25 weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross weight of the
26 group of axles by the number of axles in the group. Pursuant to
27 subsection (8), the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more

1 axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or several
 2 axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group shall
 3 be the overall gross weight of the group.

4 (8) The loading maximum in this subsection shall apply to
 5 interstate highways, and the state transportation department, or
 6 a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdic-
 7 tion, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the
 8 operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of not more
 9 than 80,000 pounds which are subject to the following load
 10 maximums:

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

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

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

17
$$W = 500 \sqrt{\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36}$$

 18
 19 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-
 20 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet
 21 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,
 22 and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except
 23 that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of
 24 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive
 25 sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart. The gross
 26 vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all
 27 enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor,

1 semitrailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem
2 axles, vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds
3 or in excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by applica-
4 tion of the formula in this subsection shall be subject to the
5 maximum axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3). As used in
6 this subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight
7 transmitted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the cen-
8 ters of which may be included between parallel transverse verti-
9 cal planes spaced more than 40 inches, but not more than 96
10 inches, apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.