



SENATE BILL No. 500

May 3, 1995, Introduced by Senators NORTH, KOIVISTO,
MC MANUS, HART and STILLE and referred to the Committee
on Transportation and Tourism.

A bill to amend section 719 of Act No. 300 of the Public
Acts of 1949, entitled as amended
"Michigan vehicle code,"
as amended by Act No. 127 of the Public Acts of 1992, being sec-
tion 257.719 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Section 719 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of
2 1949, as amended by Act No. 127 of the Public Acts of 1992, being
3 section 257.719 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 719. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a vehi-
6 cle unloaded or with load shall not exceed a height of 13 feet 6
7 inches. The owner of a vehicle which collides with a lawfully
8 established bridge or viaduct shall be liable for all damage and

1 injury resulting from a collision caused by the height of the
2 vehicle, whether the clearance of the bridge or viaduct is posted
3 or not.

4 (2) A truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, or trailer manufac-
5 tured on or after July 27, 1978, shall not be used to transport
6 flammable liquids, in bulk, having a flash point at or below 70
7 degrees Fahrenheit, if the truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, or
8 trailer exceeds 11 feet 8-1/2 inches in height. However, safety
9 equipment and those appurtenances which are required by state
10 law, when added to a vehicle, may cause the vehicle height to
11 exceed 11 feet 8-1/2 inches, but shall not cause the vehicle
12 height to exceed 13 feet 6 inches. A person who violates this
13 subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

14 (3) A vehicle, except a truck tractor, trailer, or semi-
15 trailer, including load, or articulated buses operated by a local
16 public transit system funded by Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of
17 1951, being sections 247.651 to 247.675 of the Michigan Compiled
18 Laws, shall not exceed a total length of 40 feet. The total
19 length of a semitrailer operating in a truck tractor and semi-
20 trailer combination shall not exceed 53 feet, including load.
21 All semitrailers longer than 50 feet shall have a wheelbase of
22 40.5 feet plus or minus 0.5 feet, measured from the kingpin cou-
23 pling to the center of the rear axles or to the center of the
24 tandem axle assembly if equipped with 2 axles. Articulated buses
25 operated by a local public transit system funded by Act No. 51 of
26 the Public Acts of 1951 may operate with a maximum length of 65
27 feet. A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer,

1 or truck and semitrailer or trailer, or a combination of truck
2 tractor and 2 semitrailers, including load, shall not exceed a
3 total overall length of 59 feet except as provided for on routes
4 designated and approved by the state transportation department
5 and by local authorities with respect to highways under their
6 jurisdiction on which a person may operate a combination of a
7 truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer or a truck tractor and 2
8 semitrailers with no limit on the overall combination length, if
9 the length of each semitrailer or trailer including load does not
10 exceed 28-1/2 feet or the overall length of the semitrailer and
11 trailer or 2 semitrailers as measured from the front of the first
12 towed unit to the rear of the second towed unit while the units
13 are coupled together does not exceed an overall length of 58
14 feet, including load. The state transportation department and
15 local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdic-
16 tion may designate highways where the overall length of a truck
17 and trailer or semitrailer shall not exceed 65 feet. A truck
18 tractor and semitrailer combination with a semitrailer length
19 longer than 50 feet shall not be allowed to operate with more
20 than 2 axles on the semitrailer. All truck tractor and semi-
21 trailer combinations with a semitrailer length longer than
22 50 feet shall travel exclusively on highways designated by the
23 appropriate road authority. City, village, or county authorities
24 ~~shall have the option of prohibiting~~ MAY PROHIBIT stops within
25 their jurisdictions unless the stop occurs along appropriately
26 designated routes, or is necessary for emergency purposes or to
27 reach shippers, receivers, warehouses, and terminals along

1 designated routes. A truck tractor shall not haul more than 1
2 trailer and 1 semitrailer or more than 2 semitrailers in combina-
3 tion at any 1 time, except that a farm tractor may haul 2 wagons
4 or trailers, A TRUCK TRACTOR MAY HAUL NOT MORE THAN 4 SEMITRAIL-
5 ERS TO TRANSPORT PASSENGERS ON A TRAIN OPERATED SOLELY FOR SIGHT-
6 SEEING PURPOSES, or garbage and refuse haulers may, during day-
7 light hours, haul up to 4 trailers for garbage and refuse collec-
8 tion purposes, not exceeding in any combination a total length of
9 55 feet at a speed of not to exceed 15 miles per hour. In deter-
10 mining the length of a vehicle or a vehicle combination under
11 this subsection, the length shall not be considered to include
12 safety and energy conservation devices including, but not be
13 limited to, impact absorbing bumpers, rear view mirrors, turn
14 signals lamps, marker lamps, steps and hand holds for entry and
15 egress, flexible fender extensions, mud flaps, or splash and
16 spray suppressant devices; load induced tire bulge; refrigeration
17 or heating units; or air compressors. A device shall be excluded
18 from a determination of length only if it is not designed or used
19 for the carrying of cargo. Semitrailers and trailers shall be
20 measured from the front vertical plane of the foremost transverse
21 load supporting structure to the rearmost transverse load sup-
22 porting structure.

23 (4) If a combination of 2 semitrailers is pulled by a truck
24 tractor, a fifth wheel connecting assembly which conforms with
25 motor carrier safety rules promulgated by the department of state
26 police pursuant to the motor carrier safety act of 1963, Act
27 No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1963, ~~as amended,~~ being sections

1 480.11 to 480.21 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, shall be used on
2 each semitrailer.

3 (5) A train of vehicles or a vehicle operated alone shall
4 not carry a load extending more than 3 feet beyond the front of
5 the train of vehicles or vehicle.

6 (6) A truck tractor and semitrailer combination with a semi-
7 trailer length longer than 50 feet shall not be operated on the
8 highways of this state at the times specified in section 684
9 unless equipped with all of the following lamps and reflectors,
10 in addition to any other lamps and reflectors required under this
11 act:

12 (a) Two side marker lamps which display an amber light, 1 on
13 each side of the semitrailer, located at $1/2$ the distance from
14 the front to the rear of the semitrailer.

15 (b) Two reflectors which reflect an amber light, 1 on each
16 side of the semitrailer, located at $1/2$ the distance from the
17 front to the rear of the semitrailer.

18 (c) Two clearance lamps, 1 on each side of the semitrailer,
19 located at $1/2$ the distance from the front to the rear and as
20 near to the top of the semitrailer as practicable.

21 (7) A lamp required under subsection (6) shall be lighted at
22 the times specified in section 684 and shall be visible when
23 lighted at a distance of 500 feet from the side of the semi-
24 trailer on which it is mounted. A reflector required under sub-
25 section (6) shall be visible at the times specified in section
26 684 from all distances from 50 to 500 feet from the semitrailer
27 when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps.

1 (8) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a
2 person may operate a combination of truck tractor, semitrailer,
3 and trailer, or truck tractor and semitrailer or trailer designed
4 and used exclusively to transport assembled motor vehicles or
5 bodies, recreational vehicles, or boats, which does not exceed a
6 total length of 65 feet. Stinger-steered combinations of truck
7 tractor and semitrailer shall not exceed a total length of
8 75 feet. The load on the combination of vehicles may extend an
9 additional 3 feet beyond the front and 4 feet beyond the rear of
10 the combination of vehicles. Retractable extensions used to sup-
11 port and secure the load that do not extend beyond the allowable
12 overhang for the front and rear shall not be included in deter-
13 mining the length of a loaded vehicle or combination of
14 vehicles. As used in this subsection, "stinger-steered" means a
15 semitrailer combination in which the fifth wheel is located on a
16 drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the
17 power unit.

18 (9) A combination of vehicles shall not have more than 11
19 axles.

20 (10) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a
21 number of motor vehicles, wholly or partially assembled, may be
22 transported over the highways of this state in combination, uti-
23 lizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full mount mechanisms
24 and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the vehicles in
25 combination. The combination shall not exceed the maximum length
26 of 65 feet for the transportation of assembled motor vehicles,
27 and the vehicles in the combination shall be adequately and

1 securely fastened together in compliance with regulations of the
2 state and of any federal agency having jurisdiction over the
3 transportation. If motor vehicles are towed by means of triple
4 saddle mounts, the towed vehicles shall have brakes acting on all
5 wheels which are in contact with the roadway. A combination
6 exceeding 55 feet in length may be operated only on highways and
7 routes approved and designated for that operation by the state
8 transportation department and by local authorities with respect
9 to highways under their jurisdiction.

10 (11) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a
11 person may operate a truck and semitrailer or trailer designed
12 and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and tree length poles
13 that does not exceed an overall length of 70 feet including
14 load. These combinations of vehicles shall only be operated upon
15 highways designated by the state transportation department or
16 local authorities with respect to highways under their
17 jurisdiction.

18 (12) The total gross weight of a truck tractor, semitrailer,
19 and trailer combination or a truck tractor and 2 semitrailers
20 combination which exceeds 59 feet in length shall not exceed a
21 ratio of 400 pounds per engine net horsepower delivered to clutch
22 or its equivalent specified in the SAE handbook published by the
23 society of automotive engineers, inc., (1977).

24 (13) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person who vio-
25 lates this section is responsible for a civil infraction. The
26 owner of the vehicle may be charged with a violation of this
27 section.