

**SENATE BILL NO. 46**

January 26, 1999, Introduced by Senator STILLE and referred  
to the Committee on Farming, Agribusiness and Food  
Systems.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 722 (MCL 257.722), as amended by 1993 PA 22.

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

1       Sec. 722. (1) The maximum axle load shall not exceed the  
2 number of pounds designated in the following provisions ~~which~~  
3 THAT prescribe the distance between axles:

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

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

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

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

6 (2) When normal loading is in effect, the state transporta-  
7 tion department, ~~and~~ OR A local ~~authorities~~ AUTHORITY with  
8 respect to highways under ~~their~~ ITS jurisdiction, may designate  
9 certain highways, or sections of those highways, where bridges  
10 and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, ~~which~~ AND  
11 REVISE A designation ~~may be revised~~ as needed, on which the  
12 maximum tandem axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000  
13 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there is no other axle  
14 within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

15 (3) Except as provided in subsection ~~(8)~~ (9), on a legal  
16 combination of vehicles, only 1 tandem axle assembly shall be  
17 permitted on the designated highways at the gross permissible  
18 weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle  
19 within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly, and if no other tandem  
20 axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross  
21 weight of 13,000 pounds per axle. When the maximum gross weight  
22 of a combination of vehicles with load does not exceed 73,280  
23 pounds, 2 tandem axle assemblies shall be permitted on the desig-  
24 nated highways at a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per  
25 axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the  
26 assembly. HOWEVER, THE LOADING MAXIMUMS AND GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT  
27 REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (9) SHALL APPLY FOR A DISTANCE OF

1 NOT MORE THAN 10 MILES FROM A DESIGNATED HIGHWAY OR INTERSTATE  
2 HIGHWAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PICKUP OR DELIVERY OF AN AGRICULTURAL  
3 COMMODITY.

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~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (6), DURING  
9 the months of March, April, and May in each year, the maximum  
10 axle load allowable on concrete pavements ~~—~~ or pavements with a  
11 concrete base ~~—~~ shall be reduced by 25% from the maximum axle  
12 load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle loads  
13 allowable on all other types of roads during these months shall  
14 be reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as specified. The  
15 maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch of tire  
16 width on concrete and concrete base or 450 pounds per inch of  
17 tire width on all other roads during the period the seasonal road  
18 restrictions are in effect.

19 (6) ~~Upon receipt of a written application and good cause~~  
20 ~~being shown, the~~ THE state transportation department ~~—~~ for  
21 roads under ~~their~~ ITS jurisdiction ~~—~~ MAY GRANT and A county  
22 road ~~commissions,~~ COMMISSION for roads under ~~their~~ ITS juris-  
23 diction ~~—~~ ~~may permit~~ SHALL GRANT exemptions from seasonal  
24 weight restrictions for ~~milk~~ THE HAULING OF AGRICULTURAL  
25 COMMODITIES on specified routes when requested IN WRITING.  
26 ~~Approval or denial of a request for an exemption shall be given~~  
27 ~~by written notice to the applicant within 30 days after the date~~

~~1 of submission of the application. If a request is denied, the~~  
~~2 written notice shall state the reason for denial and alternate~~  
~~3 routes for which the permit may be issued. The applicant shall~~  
~~4 have the right to appeal to the state transportation commission~~  
~~5 or the county road commission. These exemptions shall not apply~~  
~~6 on county roads in counties which have negotiated agreements with~~  
~~7 milk haulers, or haulers of other commodities, during periods of~~  
~~8 seasonal load limits in years prior to the effective date of this~~  
~~9 1993 amendatory act. This 1993 amendatory act shall not limit~~  
~~10 the ability of these counties to continue to negotiate such~~  
~~11 agreements.~~ AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"  
~~12 MEANS "FARM PRODUCTS" AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 OF THE~~  
~~13 MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM ACT, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.472, FERTILIZER,~~  
~~14 FARMING EQUIPMENT, AND FUEL. HOWEVER, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES~~  
~~15 DO NOT INCLUDE TREES AND TIMBER.~~

~~16 (7) (6)~~ The state transportation department, or local  
~~17 authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may IN~~  
~~18 ITS DISCRETION suspend the restrictions imposed by this section~~  
~~19 when and where , in its discretion, conditions of the highways~~  
~~20 or the public health, safety, and welfare so warrant~~  
~~21 SUSPENSION, and may impose the restricted loading requirements~~  
~~22 of this section on designated highways at any other time that the~~  
~~23 conditions of the highway may require.~~

~~24 (8) (7)~~ For the purpose of enforcement of this act, the  
~~25 gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combina-~~  
~~26 tion of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing~~  
~~27 individual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all~~

1 the axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the  
2 gross axle weight shall be determined by weighing individual  
3 axles or by weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross  
4 weight of the group of axles by the number of axles in the  
5 group. Pursuant to subsection ~~-(8)-~~ (9), the overall gross  
6 weight on a group of 2 or more axles shall be determined by  
7 weighing individual axles or several axles, and the total weight  
8 of all the axles in the group shall be the overall gross weight  
9 of the group.

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

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

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

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

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24      W = 500      /LN + 12N + 36\
25      \N-1          /

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26 where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecu-  
27 tive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet  
28 between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles,

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