



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS FOR FARM VEHICLES**

House Bill 5591  
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Muxlow  
Committee: Transportation

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Complete to 3-19-90

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5591 AS INTRODUCED 3-13-90**

The Vehicle Code generally requires that vehicles carrying a load that is not completely enclosed be covered with firmly secured canvas or a similar covering to prevent materials from escaping from the vehicle while in motion; this provision applies differently to farmers who transport certain types of goods. Also, the act requires persons who drive larger vehicles to obtain a specific "vehicle group designation" and indorsement depending on the type of vehicle they drive. Again, farmers who drive vehicles weighing less than 13 tons -- that have farm registration plates and are used for farm transport purposes -- are generally exempt from this licensing requirement.

The bill would amend the act to specify that a person who drove or moved a vehicle on a highway would not be violating the covering provision when hay, straw, silage, or residue from any other agricultural or horticultural products, or material used to aid in loading, unloading, transporting, storing, or preserving these products, dropped, sifted, leaked, blew off, or otherwise escaped from a vehicle in an amount that did not constitute a traffic hazard or cause damage to other vehicles.

Also, the bill would clarify that the vehicle group designation and indorsement licensing requirements would not apply when a farmer (which, for the bill's purposes, would include a farmer's employees or family members) was operating a vehicle and the following were true:

- \* The vehicle was controlled and operated by the farmer;
- \* The vehicle was used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies, or a combination of these, to or from a farm;
- \* The vehicle was not used in the operation of a common or contract motor carrier;
- \* The vehicle was operated within 150 miles of the farm; and
- \* The vehicle had farm registration plates.

MCL 257.312e and 257.720

House Bill 5591 (3-19-90)