

Act No. 75
Public Acts of 1990
Approved by the Governor
May 16, 1990
Filed with the Secretary of State
May 17, 1990

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
85TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1990**

Introduced by Reps. Pridnia and Ouwinga

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4357

AN ACT to amend section 721 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended "An act to provide for the registration, titling, sale, transfer, and regulation of vehicles operated upon the public highways of this state or any other place open to the general public and distressed vehicles; to provide for the licensing of dealers; to provide for the examination, licensing, and control of operators and chauffeurs; to provide for the giving of proof of financial responsibility and security by owners and operators of vehicles; to provide for the imposition, levy, and collection of specific taxes on vehicles, and the levy and collection of sales and use taxes, license fees, and permit fees; to provide for the regulation and use of streets and highways; to create certain funds; to provide penalties and sanctions for a violation of this act; to provide for civil liability of owners and operators of vehicles and service of process on residents and nonresidents; to provide for the levy of certain assessments; to provide for the enforcement of this act; to provide for the creation of and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies; to repeal all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act or contrary to this act; and to repeal certain parts of this act on a specific date," being section 257.721 of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to add section 312i.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. Section 721 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, being section 257.721 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended and section 312i is added to read as follows:

Sec. 312i. (1) A person, before operating a pickup truck equipped with a fifth wheel assembly with an attached semitrailer designed for recreational living purposes and towing an additional trailer or semitrailer, shall procure an R vehicle indorsement on the operator's or chauffeur's license. An R vehicle indorsement shall not be issued to a person who is 17 years of age or less.

(2) Before a person is issued an original R vehicle indorsement on an operator's or chauffeur's license, the person shall pass a written examination which shall include subjects designed to cover knowledge needed to tow a double trailer combination. All examinations shall be administered as provided in this act.

(3) Every application for an R vehicle indorsement on an operator's or chauffeur's license for operation of a pickup truck as provided in this section shall be accompanied by a fee of \$10.00 which shall be in addition to any other original or renewal operator or chauffeur license fee.

(4) A person who is licensed under this act to operate either a group A designated vehicle with a T vehicle indorsement or a group B designated vehicle with a T vehicle indorsement is exempt from the requirements of this section.

Sec. 721. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), a passenger vehicle or a pickup truck shall not be driven upon a highway drawing or having attached to the passenger vehicle or pickup truck more than 1 vehicle or trailer.

(2) The drawbar or other connection between 2 vehicles, 1 of which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall not exceed 15 feet in length from 1 vehicle to the other. If the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon the connection a red flag or other signal or cloth not less than 12 inches both in length and width.

(3) A vehicle or trailer towed or drawn by a vehicle shall be attached to the vehicle with forms of coupling devices in a manner so that when the combination is operated in a linear alignment on a level, smooth, paved surface, the movement of the towed or drawn vehicle or trailer does not deviate more than 3 inches to either side of the path of the towing vehicle that tows or draws it. The vehicle or trailer shall also be connected to the towing vehicle, by suitable safety chains or devices, 1 on each side of the coupling and at the extreme outer edge of the vehicle or trailer and each chain or device and connection used shall be of sufficient strength to haul the vehicle or trailer when loaded.

(4) A pickup truck with a fifth wheel assembly shall not tow a semitrailer unless the fifth wheel assembly conforms to motor carrier safety rule R 460.16442 of the Michigan administrative code.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pickup truck with a towing rating equal to, or greater than, the weight being towed, equipped with a fifth wheel assembly which conforms with motor carrier safety rules promulgated by the department of state police pursuant to the motor carrier safety act of 1963, Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1963, being sections 480.11 to 480.21 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, towing attached with a semitrailer designed for recreational living purposes may tow an additional trailer or semitrailer under the following conditions:

(a) The additional trailer or semitrailer shall be attached pursuant to subsection (3). The safety chains described in subsection (3) shall be securely attached at the extreme outer edge of the attached trailer or semitrailer with a locking mechanism. The towing vehicle hitch shall be of substantial material and shall be attached in a proper and skillful manner to the frame of the towing vehicle.

(b) The total length of the pickup truck, semitrailer designed for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer or semitrailer shall not exceed 59 feet.

(c) The gross weight of the additional trailer or semitrailer towed or drawn shall not exceed the empty weight of the pickup truck or the empty weight of the semitrailer.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a pickup truck towing a semitrailer and additional trailer shall be considered a passenger vehicle and shall comply with the speed limit requirements of section 627(5).

(7) The office of highway safety and planning shall compile a study and report to the legislature within 2 years after the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection with respect to the effect on highway safety of the changes made in towing requirements for pickup trucks with fifth wheel assemblies and additional trailers by the amendatory act that added this subsection.

(8) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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Secretary of the Senate.

Approved

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Governor.