

HOUSE BILL No. 4357

March 7, 1989, Introduced by Reps. Pridnia and Ouwinga and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend section 721 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended
"Michigan vehicle code,"
being section 257.721 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Section 721 of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of
2 1949, being section 257.721 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 Sec. 721. (1) ~~A~~ EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSEC-
5 TION (5), A passenger vehicle OR A PICKUP TRUCK shall not be
6 driven upon a highway drawing or having attached to the passenger
7 vehicle OR PICKUP TRUCK more than 1 vehicle or trailer.

8 (2) The drawbar or other connection between 2 vehicles, 1 of
9 which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall not
10 exceed 15 feet in length from 1 vehicle to the other. If the

1 connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be
2 displayed upon the connection a red flag or other signal or cloth
3 not less than 12 inches both in length and width.

4 (3) A vehicle or trailer TOWED OR drawn by a ~~motor~~
5 ~~propelled~~ vehicle shall be ~~so~~ attached to the vehicle with
6 forms of coupling devices ~~which will prevent the vehicle or~~
7 ~~trailer from being deflected more than 6 inches from the path of~~
8 ~~the towing vehicle's wheels~~ IN A MANNER SO THAT WHEN THE COMBI-
9 NATION IS OPERATED IN A LINEAR ALIGNMENT ON A LEVEL, SMOOTH,
10 PAVED SURFACE, THE MOVEMENT OF THE TOWED OR DRAWN VEHICLE OR
11 TRAILER DOES NOT DEVIATE MORE THAN 3 INCHES TO EITHER SIDE OF THE
12 PATH OF THE TOWING VEHICLE THAT TOWS OR DRAWS IT. The vehicle or
13 trailer shall also be connected to the towing vehicle, by suit-
14 able safety chains or devices, 1 on each side of the coupling and
15 at the extreme outer edge of the vehicle OR TRAILER and each
16 chain or device and connection used shall be of sufficient
17 strength to haul the VEHICLE OR trailer when loaded.

18 (4) A PICKUP TRUCK WITH A FIFTH WHEEL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT TOW
19 A SEMITRAILER UNLESS THE FIFTH WHEEL ASSEMBLY CONFORMS TO MOTOR
20 CARRIER SAFETY RULE R 460.16442 OF THE MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE
21 CODE.

22 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1), A PICKUP TRUCK WITH A
23 MANUFACTURER'S GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING OF NOT LESS THAN 8,500
24 POUNDS, EQUIPPED WITH A FIFTH WHEEL 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, BEING SECTIONS 480.11 TO

1 480.21 OF THE MICHIGAN COMPILED LAWS; ATTACHED WITH A SEMITRAILER
2 DESIGNED FOR RECREATIONAL LIVING PURPOSES MAY TOW AN ADDITIONAL
3 TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

4 (A) THE ADDITIONAL TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER SHALL BE ATTACHED
5 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3). THE SAFETY CHAINS DESCRIBED IN
6 SUBSECTION (3) SHALL BE SECURELY ATTACHED AT THE EXTREME OUTER
7 EDGE OF THE ATTACHED TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER WITH A LOCKING
8 MECHANISM. THE TOWING VEHICLE HITCH SHALL BE OF SUBSTANTIAL
9 MATERIAL AND SHALL BE ATTACHED IN A PROPER AND SKILLFUL MANNER TO
10 THE FRAME OF THE TOWING VEHICLE.

11 (B) THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE PICKUP TRUCK, SEMITRAILER
12 DESIGNED FOR RECREATIONAL LIVING PURPOSES, AND ADDITIONAL TRAILER
13 OR SEMITRAILER SHALL NOT EXCEED 59 FEET.

14 (C) THE GROSS WEIGHT OF THE ADDITIONAL TRAILER OR SEMI-
15 TRAILER TOWED OR DRAWN SHALL NOT EXCEED THE WEIGHT OF THE PICKUP
16 TRUCK OR THE WEIGHT OF THE SEMITRAILER.

17 (6) ~~-(4)-~~ A person who violates this section is responsible
18 for a civil infraction.