

HOUSE BILL No. 5161

October 9, 1989, Introduced by Reps. Stupak, Ouwinga, Sofio, Hertel, DeMars, DeLange and Gagliardi and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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. 356 of the Public Acts of 1988, being section 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. 356 of the Public Acts of 1988, 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
9 injury resulting from a collision caused by the height of the

1 vehicle, whether the clearance of the bridge or viaduct is posted
2 or not.

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

13 (3) A vehicle, except a truck tractor, trailer, or semi-
14 trailer, including load, or articulated buses operated by a local
15 public transit system funded by Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of
16 1951, being sections 247.651 to ~~247.674~~ 247.675 of the Michigan
17 Compiled Laws, shall not exceed a total length of 40 feet. The
18 total length of a semitrailer operating in a truck tractor and
19 semitrailer combination shall not exceed 53 feet, including
20 load. All semitrailers longer than 50 feet shall have a wheel-
21 base of 40.5 feet plus or minus 0.5 feet, measured from the king-
22 pin coupling to the center of the rear axles or to the center of
23 the tandem axle assembly if equipped with 2 axles. Articulated
24 buses operated by a local public transit system funded by Act
25 No. 51 of the Public Acts of 1951 may operate with a maximum
26 length of 65 feet. A combination of truck tractor, semitrailer,
27 and trailer, or truck and semitrailer or trailer, or a

1 combination of truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, including load,
2 shall not exceed a total overall length of 59 feet except as pro-
3 vided for on routes designated and approved by the state trans-
4 portation department and by local authorities with respect to
5 highways under their jurisdiction on which a person may operate a
6 combination of a truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer or a
7 truck tractor and 2 semitrailers with no limit on the overall
8 combination length, if the length of each semitrailer or trailer
9 including load does not exceed 28-1/2 feet. The state transpor-
10 tation department and local authorities with respect to highways
11 under their jurisdiction may designate highways where the overall
12 length of a truck and trailer or semitrailer shall not exceed 65
13 feet. A truck tractor and semitrailer combination with a semi-
14 trailer length longer than 50 feet shall not be allowed to oper-
15 ate with more than 2 axles on the semitrailer. All truck tractor
16 and semitrailer combinations with a semitrailer length longer
17 than 50 feet shall travel exclusively on highways designated by
18 the appropriate road authority. City, village, or county author-
19 ities shall have the option of prohibiting stops within their
20 jurisdictions unless the stop occurs along appropriately desig-
21 nated routes, or is necessary for emergency purposes or to reach
22 shippers, receivers, warehouses, and terminals along designated
23 routes. A trailer or semitrailer in actual and lawful use in
24 this state on December 1, 1982, may be operated in this state for
25 the life of the vehicle in a combination with other vehicles in
26 actual and lawful use in this state on December 1, 1982, if the
27 combination was of legal length under the law of this state

1 immediately preceding January 24, 1984. In calculating the
2 length of a trailer or semitrailer under this subsection, the
3 length shall be based on the cargo carrying portion of the vehi-
4 cle only, including load. A truck tractor or other motor vehicle
5 shall not haul more than 1 trailer and 1 semitrailer or more than
6 2 semitrailers in combination at any 1 time, except that a farm
7 tractor may haul 2 wagons or trailers or garbage and refuse haul-
8 ers may, during daylight hours, haul up to 4 trailers for garbage
9 and refuse collection purposes, not exceeding in any combination
10 a total length of 55 feet at a speed of not to exceed 15 miles
11 per hour. In determining the length of a vehicle or a vehicle
12 combination under this subsection, the length shall not be con-
13 sidered to include safety and energy conservation devices includ-
14 ing, but not be limited to, impact absorbing bumpers, rear view
15 mirrors, turn signals lamps, marker lamps, steps and hand holds
16 for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mud flaps, or
17 splash and spray suppressant devices; load induced tire bulge;
18 refrigeration or heating units; or air compressors. A device
19 shall be excluded from a determination of length only if it is
20 not designed or used for the carrying of cargo.

21 (4) If a combination of 2 semitrailers is pulled by a truck
22 or truck tractor, a fifth wheel connecting assembly which con-
23 forms with motor carrier safety rules promulgated by the depart-
24 ment of state police pursuant to the motor carrier safety act of
25 1963, Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1963, as amended, being
26 sections 480.11 to 480.21 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, shall be
27 used on each semitrailer.

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

4 (6) A motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer whose frame or
5 body extends more than 36 inches beyond the rear of its rear axle
6 and is more than 30 inches above the roadway shall not be oper-
7 ated on the highways of this state unless equipped with a fender
8 or bumper on the extreme rear of the frame or body. The bumper
9 shall extend downward from the rear of the frame or body to
10 within 30 inches of the roadway and be of substantial
11 construction. In addition to the requirements of subsection (7),
12 no vehicle which is required by federal law to have an underride
13 guard of not more than 22 inches above the roadway shall be oper-
14 ated upon the highways of this state without such an underride
15 guard.

16 (7) A truck tractor and semitrailer combination with a semi-
17 trailer length longer than 50 feet whose frame or body extends
18 more than 36 inches beyond the rear of its rear axle and is more
19 than 30 inches above the roadway shall not be operated on the
20 highways of this state unless equipped with an underride guard on
21 the extreme rear of the frame or body. The underride guard shall
22 meet all of the following requirements:

23 (a) Provide a continuous horizontal beam having a maximum
24 ground clearance of 22 inches, as measured with the vehicle empty
25 and on level ground.

26 (b) Extend to within 4 inches of the lateral extremities of
27 the trailer on both left and right sides.

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

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

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

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

16 (9) A lamp required under subsection (8) shall be lighted at
17 the times specified in section 684 and shall be visible when
18 lighted at a distance of 500 feet from the side of the semi-
19 trailer on which it is mounted. A reflector required under sub-
20 section (8) shall be visible at the times specified in section
21 684 from all distances from 50 to 500 feet from the semitrailer
22 when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps.

23 (10) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a
24 person may operate a combination of truck tractor, semitrailer,
25 and trailer, or truck tractor and semitrailer or trailer designed
26 and used exclusively to transport assembled motor vehicles or
27 bodies, recreational vehicles, or boats, which does not exceed a

1 total length of 65 feet. The load on the combination of vehicles
2 may extend an additional 3 feet beyond the front and 4 feet
3 beyond the rear of the combination of vehicles. Retractable
4 extensions used to support and secure the load that do not extend
5 beyond the allowable overhang for the front and rear shall not be
6 included in determining the length of a loaded vehicle or combi-
7 nation of vehicles.

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

10 (12) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, a
11 number of motor vehicles, wholly or partially assembled, may be
12 transported over the highways of this state in combination, uti-
13 lizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full mount mechanisms
14 and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the vehicles in
15 combination. The combination shall not exceed the maximum length
16 of 65 feet for the transportation of assembled motor vehicles,
17 and the vehicles in the combination shall be adequately and
18 securely fastened together in compliance with regulations of the
19 state and of any federal agency having jurisdiction over the
20 transportation. If motor vehicles are towed by means of triple
21 saddle mounts, the towed vehicles shall have brakes acting on all
22 wheels which are in contact with the roadway. A combination
23 exceeding 55 feet in length may be operated only on highways and
24 routes approved and designated for that operation by the state
25 transportation department and by local authorities with respect
26 to highways under their jurisdiction.

1 (13) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, A
2 PERSON MAY OPERATE THE FOLLOWING COMBINATION OF VEHICLES NOT TO
3 EXCEED AN OVERALL LENGTH OF 70 FEET INCLUDING LOAD: A TRUCK AND
4 SEMITRAILER OR TRAILER; A TRUCK TRACTOR SEMITRAILER, TRAILER, AND
5 A SEMITRAILER, THE SEMITRAILER NOT TO EXCEED 32 FEET; OR A TRUCK
6 TRACTOR AND 2 SEMITRAILERS, THE LEAD SEMITRAILER NOT TO EXCEED 32
7 FEET, IF THE RESPECTIVE COMBINATION OF VEHICLES ARE DESIGNED AND
8 USED TO TRANSPORT SAW LOGS, PULPWOOD, AND TREE LENGTH POLES AND
9 OPERATED ONLY UPON HIGHWAYS DESIGNATED BY THE STATE TRANSPORTA-
10 TION DEPARTMENT OR LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO HIGHWAYS
11 UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION.

12 (14) ~~-(13)-~~ The total gross weight of a truck tractor, semi-
13 trailer, and trailer combination or a truck tractor and 2 semi-
14 trailers combination which exceeds 59 feet in length shall not
15 exceed a ratio of 400 pounds per engine net horsepower delivered
16 to clutch or its equivalent specified in the SAE handbook pub-
17 lished by the society of automotive engineers, inc., (1977).

18 (15) ~~-(14)-~~ Except as provided in subsection (2), a person
19 who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.
20 The owner of the vehicle may be charged with a violation of this
21 section.