



Senate Fiscal Agency  
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Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

## BILL ANALYSIS



Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
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Senate Bill 836 (as introduced 2-21-18)  
Sponsor: Senator Tom Casperson  
Committee: Transportation

Date Completed: 3-22-18

**CONTENT**

**The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to revise a provision allowing a legal combination of vehicles that has one tandem axle at the gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle to operate on designated highways only if no other tandem axle assembly in the combination exceed a gross weight of 13,000 pounds per axle.**

The Code prescribes maximum axle loads and gross vehicle weights for various configurations of vehicles. Except as otherwise provided, the maximum axle load may not exceed a designated number of pounds (known as the normal loading maximum) based on the distance between axles.

When normal loading is in effect, the Michigan Department of Transportation, or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may designate certain highways, or sections of highways, where bridges and road surfaces are adequate for heavier loading, on which the maximum tandem axle assembly loading may not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there is no other axle within nine feet of any axle of the assembly.

On a legal combination of vehicles, only one tandem axle assembly is permitted on the designated highways at the gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle if both of the following are met:

- There is no other axle within nine feet of any axle of the assembly.
- No other tandem axle assembly in the combination of vehicles exceeds a gross weight of 13,000 pounds per axle.

The bill would delete the condition that no other tandem axle assembly in the combination exceed a gross weight of 13,000 pounds per axle.

The bill would take effect 90 days after it was enacted.

MCL 257.722

Legislative Analyst: Drew Krogulecki

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the State and could have a minimal positive fiscal impact on local government. A violation of the size or weight limitations in the Code is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days or a fine of up to \$500, or both. The provisions of the bill could reduce the number of misdemeanors for violations of the

weight maximum. Any reduction in misdemeanor arrests and convictions could reduce resource demands on law enforcement, court systems, community supervision, and jails. Any associated decrease in fine revenue would reduce funding to public libraries.

Fiscal Analyst: Ryan Bergan

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