

# SENATE BILL No. 1491

November 9, 2006, Introduced by Senator GILBERT and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "Michigan vehicle code," by amending sections 719 and 726 (MCL 257.719 and 257.726), section 719 as amended by 2004 PA 420 and section 726 as amended by 1983 PA 107.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 719. (1) A vehicle unloaded or with load shall not exceed  
2 a height of 13 feet 6 inches. The owner of a vehicle that collides  
3 with a lawfully established bridge or viaduct is liable for all  
4 damage and injury resulting from a collision caused by the height  
5 of the vehicle, whether the clearance of the bridge or viaduct is  
6 posted or not.

7           (2) Lengths described in this subsection shall be known as the  
8 normal length maximum. Except as provided in subsection (3), the

1 following vehicles and combinations of vehicles shall not be  
2 operated on a highway in this state in excess of these lengths:

3 (a) Subject to subsection (8), any single vehicle: 40 feet; a  
4 crib vehicle on which logs are loaded lengthwise of the vehicle:  
5 42.5 feet; any single bus or motor home: 45 feet.

6 (b) Articulated buses: 65 feet.

7 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
8 combination of a truck and semitrailer or trailer, or a truck  
9 tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or truck tractor and semitrailer  
10 or trailer, designed and used exclusively to transport assembled  
11 motor vehicles or bodies, recreational vehicles, or boats, that  
12 does not exceed a length of 65 feet. Stinger-steered combinations  
13 shall not exceed a length of 75 feet. The load on the combinations  
14 of vehicles described in this subdivision may extend an additional  
15 3 feet beyond the front and 4 feet beyond the rear of the  
16 combinations of vehicles. Retractable extensions used to support  
17 and secure the load that do not extend beyond the allowable  
18 overhang for the front and rear shall not be included in  
19 determining length of a loaded vehicle or vehicle combination.

20 (d) Truck tractor and semitrailer combinations: no overall  
21 length, the semitrailer not to exceed 50 feet.

22 (e) Truck and semitrailer or trailer: 59 feet.

23 (f) Except as provided in subdivision (g), truck tractor,  
24 semitrailer, and trailer, or truck tractor and 2 semitrailers: 59  
25 feet.

26 (g) A truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or a truck  
27 tractor and 2 semitrailers, in which no semitrailer or trailer is

1 more than 28-1/2 feet long: 65 feet. This subdivision only applies  
2 while the vehicle is being used for a business purpose reasonably  
3 related to picking up or delivering a load and only if each  
4 semitrailer or trailer is equipped with a device or system capable  
5 of mechanically dumping construction materials or dumping  
6 construction materials by force of gravity.

7 (h) More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially assembled,  
8 in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full  
9 mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the  
10 vehicles in combination, not to exceed 55 feet.

11 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the following vehicles and  
12 combinations of vehicles shall not be operated on a designated  
13 highway of this state in excess of these lengths:

14 (a) Truck tractor and semitrailer combinations: no overall  
15 length limit, the semitrailer not to exceed 53 feet. All  
16 semitrailers longer than 50 feet shall have a wheelbase of 37.5 to  
17 40.5 feet plus or minus 0.5 feet, measured from the kingpin  
18 coupling to the center of the rear axle or the center of the rear  
19 axle assembly. A semitrailer with a length longer than 50 feet  
20 shall not operate with more than 3 axles on the semitrailer. City,  
21 village, or county authorities may prohibit stops of vehicles with  
22 a semitrailer longer than 50 feet within their jurisdiction unless  
23 the stop occurs along appropriately designated routes, or is  
24 necessary for emergency purposes or to reach shippers, receivers,  
25 warehouses, and terminals along designated routes.

26 (b) Truck and semitrailer or trailer combinations: 65 feet,  
27 except that a person may operate a truck and semitrailer or trailer

1 designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and tree length  
2 poles that does not exceed an overall length of 70 feet or a crib  
3 vehicle and semitrailer or trailer designed and used to transport  
4 saw logs that does not exceed an overall length of 75 feet. A crib  
5 vehicle and semitrailer or trailer designed to and used to  
6 transport saw logs shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight of  
7 164,000 pounds. A person may operate a truck tractor and  
8 semitrailer designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and  
9 tree length wooden poles with a load overhang to the rear of the  
10 semitrailer which does not exceed 6 feet if the semitrailer does  
11 not exceed 50 feet in length.

12 (c) Truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, or truck tractor,  
13 semitrailer, and trailer combinations: no overall length limit, if  
14 the length of each semitrailer or trailer does not exceed 28-1/2  
15 feet each, or the overall length of the semitrailer and trailer, or  
16 2 semitrailers as measured from the front of the first towed unit  
17 to the rear of the second towed unit while the units are coupled  
18 together does not exceed 58 feet.

19 (d) More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially assembled,  
20 in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full  
21 mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the  
22 vehicles in combination, not to exceed 75 feet.

23 (4) The following combinations and movements are prohibited:

24 (a) A truck shall not haul more than 1 trailer or semitrailer,  
25 and a truck tractor shall not haul more than 2 semitrailers or 1  
26 semitrailer and 1 trailer in combination at any 1 time, except that  
27 a farm tractor may haul 2 wagons or trailers, or garbage and refuse

1 haulers may, during daylight hours, haul up to 4 trailers for  
2 garbage and refuse collection purposes, not exceeding in any  
3 combination a total length of 55 feet and at a speed limit not to  
4 exceed 15 miles per hour.

5 (b) A combination of vehicles or a vehicle shall not have more  
6 than 11 axles, except when operating under a valid permit issued by  
7 the state transportation department or a local authority with  
8 respect to a highway under its jurisdiction.

9 (c) Any combination of vehicles not specifically authorized  
10 under this section is prohibited.

11 (d) A combination of 2 semitrailers pulled by a truck tractor,  
12 unless each semitrailer uses a fifth wheel connecting assembly  
13 which conforms to the requirements of the motor carrier safety act  
14 of 1963, 1963 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to ~~480.22~~ **480.25**.

15 (e) A vehicle or a combination of vehicles shall not carry a  
16 load extending more than 3 feet beyond the front of the lead  
17 vehicle.

18 (f) A vehicle described in subsections (2)(e) and (3)(d)  
19 employing triple saddle mounts unless all wheels that are in  
20 contact with the roadway have operating brakes.

21 (5) All combinations of vehicles under this section shall  
22 employ connecting assemblies and lighting devices that are in  
23 compliance with the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181,  
24 MCL 480.11 to ~~480.22~~ **480.25**.

25 (6) The total gross weight of a truck tractor, semitrailer,  
26 and trailer combination or a truck tractor and 2 semitrailers  
27 combination that exceeds 59 feet in length shall not exceed a ratio

1 of 400 pounds per engine net horsepower delivered to clutch or its  
2 equivalent specified in the handbook published by the society of  
3 automotive engineers, inc. (SAE), 1977 edition.

4 (7) A person who violates this section is responsible for a  
5 civil infraction. The owner of the vehicle may be charged with a  
6 violation of this section.

7 (8) The provisions in subsections (2)(a) and (3)(b)  
8 prescribing the length of a crib vehicle on which logs are loaded  
9 lengthwise do not apply unless section 127(d) of title 23 of the  
10 United States Code, 23 USC 127, is amended to allow crib vehicles  
11 carrying logs to be loaded as described in this section.

12 (9) As used in this section:

13 (a) "Designated highway" means a highway approved by the state  
14 transportation department or **BY** a local authority **IN COMPLIANCE**  
15 **WITH SECTION 726** with respect to a highway under its jurisdiction,  
16 **AND THAT IS PROPERLY POSTED AS PROVIDED BY LAW.**

17 (b) "Length" means the total length of a vehicle, or  
18 combination of vehicles, including any load the vehicle is  
19 carrying. Length does not include devices described in 23 CFR  
20 658.16 and 23 CFR part 658, appendix d. 23 CFR 658.16 and 23 CFR  
21 part 658, appendix d, as on file with the secretary of state are  
22 adopted by reference. A safety or energy conservation device shall  
23 be excluded from a determination of length only if it is not  
24 designed or used for the carrying of cargo, freight, or equipment.  
25 Semitrailers and trailers shall be measured from the front vertical  
26 plane of the foremost transverse load supporting structure to the  
27 rearmost transverse load supporting structure. Vehicle components

1 not excluded by law shall be included in the measurement of the  
2 length, height, and width of the vehicle.

3 (c) "Stinger-steered combinations" means a truck tractor and  
4 semitrailer combination in which the fifth wheel is located on a  
5 drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the power  
6 unit.

7 Sec. 726. (1) Local authorities and county road commissions  
8 with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, except state  
9 trunk line highways, by ordinance or resolution, may do any of the  
10 following:

11 (a) Prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial  
12 vehicles on designated highways or streets.

13 (b) Impose limitations as to the weight of trucks or other  
14 commercial vehicles on designated highways or streets.

15 (c) Provide that only certain highways or streets may be used  
16 by trucks or other commercial vehicles.

17 (2) ~~Any~~ **ALL** prohibitions, limitations, or truck route  
18 designations established under subsection (1) shall be designated  
19 by appropriate signs placed on the highways or streets. The design  
20 and placement of the signs shall be consistent with the  
21 requirements of section 608.

22 (3) A person who violates a prohibition, limitation, or truck  
23 route designation established pursuant to subsection (1) is  
24 responsible for a civil infraction.