

SENATE BILL No. 1241

March 27, 2008, Introduced by Senators VAN WOERKOM, PRUSI, McMANUS and STAMAS and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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

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

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

4 (b) Articulated buses: 65 feet.

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

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

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

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

24 (g) A truck tractor, semitrailer, and trailer, or a truck
25 tractor and 2 semitrailers, in which no semitrailer or trailer is
26 more than 28-1/2 feet long: 65 feet. This subdivision only applies
27 while the vehicle is being used for a business purpose reasonably

1 related to picking up or delivering a load and only if each
2 semitrailer or trailer is equipped with a device or system capable
3 of mechanically dumping construction materials or dumping
4 construction materials by force of gravity.

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

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

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

24 (b) Truck and semitrailer or trailer combinations: 65 feet,
25 except that a person may operate a truck and semitrailer or trailer
26 designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and tree length
27 poles that does not exceed an overall length of 70 feet or a crib

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

10 (C) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (4) (D), A TRUCK TRACTOR WITH A
11 LOG SLASHER UNIT AND A LOG SAW UNIT: NO OVERALL LIMIT IF THE LENGTH
12 OF EACH UNIT DOES NOT EXCEED 28-1/2 FEET, OR THE OVERALL LENGTH OF
13 THE LOG SLASHER UNIT AND THE LOG SAW UNIT, AS MEASURED FROM THE
14 FRONT OF THE FIRST TOWED UNIT TO THE REAR OF THE SECOND TOWED UNIT
15 WHILE THE UNITS ARE COUPLED TOGETHER, DOES NOT EXCEED 58 FEET.

16 (D) ~~(e)~~—Truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, or truck tractor,
17 semitrailer, and trailer combinations: no overall length limit, if
18 the length of each semitrailer or trailer does not exceed 28-1/2
19 feet each, or the overall length of the semitrailer and trailer, or
20 2 semitrailers as measured from the front of the first towed unit
21 to the rear of the second towed unit while the units are coupled
22 together does not exceed 58 feet.

23 (E) ~~(d)~~—More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially
24 assembled, in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts
25 with full mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of
26 the vehicles in combination, not to exceed 75 feet.

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

1 (a) A truck shall not haul more than 1 trailer or semitrailer,
2 and a truck tractor shall not haul more than 2 semitrailers or 1
3 semitrailer and 1 trailer in combination at any 1 time, except that
4 a farm tractor may haul 2 wagons or trailers, or garbage and refuse
5 haulers may, during daylight hours, haul up to 4 trailers for
6 garbage and refuse collection purposes, not exceeding in any
7 combination a total length of 55 feet and at a speed limit not to
8 exceed 15 miles per hour.

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

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

15 (d) ~~A~~**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3) (C),** A combination
16 of 2 semitrailers pulled by a truck tractor, unless each
17 semitrailer uses a fifth wheel connecting assembly which conforms
18 to the requirements of the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963
19 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to 480.22.

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

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

26 (5) All combinations of vehicles under this section shall
27 employ connecting assemblies and lighting devices that are in

1 compliance with the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181,
2 MCL 480.11 to 480.22.

3 (6) The total gross weight of a truck tractor, semitrailer,
4 and trailer combination or a truck tractor and 2 semitrailers
5 combination that exceeds 59 feet in length shall not exceed a ratio
6 of 400 pounds per engine net horsepower delivered to clutch or its
7 equivalent specified in the handbook published by the society of
8 automotive engineers, inc. (SAE), 1977 edition.

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

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

17 (9) As used in this section:

18 (a) "Designated highway" means a highway approved by the state
19 transportation department or a local authority with respect to a
20 highway under its jurisdiction.

21 (b) "Length" means the total length of a vehicle, or
22 combination of vehicles, including any load the vehicle is
23 carrying. Length does not include devices described in 23 CFR
24 658.16 and 23 CFR part 658, appendix d. 23 CFR 658.16 and 23 CFR
25 part 658, appendix d, as on file with the secretary of state are
26 adopted by reference. A safety or energy conservation device shall
27 be excluded from a determination of length only if it is not

1 designed or used for the carrying of cargo, freight, or equipment.
2 Semitrailers and trailers shall be measured from the front vertical
3 plane of the foremost transverse load supporting structure to the
4 rearmost transverse load supporting structure. Vehicle components
5 not excluded by law shall be included in the measurement of the
6 length, height, and width of the vehicle.

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