

HOUSE BILL No. 4968

June 19, 2001, Introduced by Rep. Callahan and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 721 (MCL 257.721), as amended by 2000 PA
154.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 721. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection
2 (5), a passenger vehicle or a pickup truck shall not be driven
3 upon a highway drawing or having attached to the passenger vehi-
4 cle or pickup truck more than 1 vehicle or trailer.

5 (2) The drawbar or other connection between 2 vehicles, 1 of
6 which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall not
7 exceed 15 feet in length from 1 vehicle to the other. If the
8 connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be
9 displayed upon the connection a red flag or other signal or cloth
10 not less than 12 inches both in length and width.

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1 (3) A vehicle or trailer towed or drawn by a vehicle shall
2 be attached to the vehicle with forms of coupling devices in a
3 manner so that when the combination is operated in a linear
4 alignment on a level, smooth, paved surface, the movement of the
5 towed or drawn vehicle or trailer does not deviate more than
6 3 inches to either side of the path of the towing vehicle that
7 tows or draws it. The vehicle or trailer shall also be connected
8 to the towing vehicle by suitable safety chains or devices, 1 on
9 each side of the coupling and at the extreme outer edge of the
10 vehicle or trailer. Each chain or device and connection used
11 shall be of sufficient strength to haul the vehicle or trailer
12 when loaded. In the case of an implement of husbandry with a
13 gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating of
14 10,000 pounds or less, the safety chains or devices required
15 under this subsection shall conform to the federal motor carrier
16 safety regulations requirements contained in 49
17 C.F.R. 393.70(d)(5).

18 (4) A pickup truck with a fifth wheel assembly shall not tow
19 a semitrailer unless the fifth wheel assembly conforms to the
20 standards prescribed in the motor carrier safety act of 1963,
21 1963 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to 480.22.

22 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pickup truck with a
23 towing rating equal to, or greater than, the weight being towed,
24 equipped with a fifth wheel assembly that conforms with the stan-
25 dards prescribed in the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA
26 181, MCL 480.11 to 480.22, towing attached with a semitrailer

1 designed for recreational living purposes may tow an additional
2 trailer or semitrailer under the following conditions:

3 (a) The additional trailer or semitrailer shall be attached
4 pursuant to subsection (3). The safety chains described in
5 subsection (3) shall be securely attached at the extreme outer
6 edge of the attached trailer or semitrailer with a locking
7 mechanism. The towing vehicle hitch shall be of substantial
8 material and shall be attached in a proper and skillful manner to
9 the frame of the towing vehicle.

10 (b) The total length of the pickup truck, semitrailer
11 designed for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer
12 or semitrailer, and load, shall not exceed 65 feet on any high-
13 ways in this state.

14 (c) The gross weight of the additional trailer or semi-
15 trailer towed or drawn shall not exceed the empty weight of the
16 pickup truck or the empty weight of the semitrailer.

17 (6) IMMEDIATELY AFTER A PASSENGER VEHICLE OR PICKUP TRUCK IS
18 USED TO TOW OR DRAW ANOTHER VEHICLE OR TRAILER, THE HITCH OR
19 OTHER CONNECTION USED TO SECURE THE VEHICLE OR TRAILER BEING
20 TOWED SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE TOWING VEHICLE.

21 (7) ~~-(6)-~~ For the purposes of this section, a pickup truck
22 towing a semitrailer and additional trailer shall be considered a
23 passenger vehicle and shall comply with the speed limit require-
24 ments of section 627(5).

25 (8) ~~-(7)-~~ A person who violates this section is responsible
26 for a civil infraction.