

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 35

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending sections 719 and 721 (MCL 257.719 and 257.721), section
719 as amended by 2009 PA 37 and section 721 as amended by 2000 PA
154.

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: ~~7, not to exceed~~ 55 feet.

11 **(I) A RECREATIONAL VEHICLE THAT HAS ITS OWN MOTIVE POWER, IN**
12 **COMBINATION WITH A TRAILER: 65 FEET OR, IF THE OPERATOR OF THE**
13 **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE HAS A GROUP COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE**
14 **DESIGNATION ON HIS OR HER OPERATOR'S OR CHAUFFEUR'S LICENSE, 75**
15 **FEET.**

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

19 (a) Truck tractor and semitrailer combinations: no overall
20 length limit, the semitrailer ~~not to exceed~~ 53 feet. All
21 semitrailers longer than 50 feet shall have a wheelbase of 37.5 to
22 40.5 feet plus or minus 0.5 feet, measured from the kingpin
23 coupling to the center of the rear axle or the center of the rear
24 axle assembly. A semitrailer with a length longer than 50 feet
25 shall not operate with more than 3 axles on the semitrailer. City,
26 village, or county authorities may prohibit stops of vehicles with
27 a semitrailer longer than 50 feet within their jurisdiction unless

1 the stop occurs along appropriately designated routes, or is
2 necessary for emergency purposes or to reach shippers, receivers,
3 warehouses, and terminals along designated routes.

4 (b) Truck and semitrailer or trailer combinations: 65 feet,
5 except that a person may operate a truck and semitrailer or trailer
6 designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and tree length
7 poles that does not exceed an overall length of 70 feet or a crib
8 vehicle and semitrailer or trailer designed and used to transport
9 saw logs that does not exceed an overall length of 75 feet. A crib
10 vehicle and semitrailer or trailer designed to and used to
11 transport saw logs shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight of
12 164,000 pounds. A person may operate a truck tractor and
13 semitrailer designed and used to transport saw logs, pulpwood, and
14 tree length wooden poles with a load overhang to the rear of the
15 semitrailer which does not exceed 6 feet if the semitrailer does
16 not exceed 50 feet in length.

17 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (4)(d), a truck tractor with a
18 log slasher unit and a log saw unit: no overall limit if the length
19 of each unit does not exceed 28-1/2 feet, or the overall length of
20 the log slasher unit and the log saw unit, as measured from the
21 front of the first towed unit to the rear of the second towed unit
22 while the units are coupled together, does not exceed 58 feet. The
23 coupling devices of the truck tractor and units set forth in this
24 subdivision shall meet the requirements established under the motor
25 carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to 480.25.

26 (d) Truck tractor and 2 semitrailers, or truck tractor,
27 semitrailer, and trailer combinations: no overall length limit, if

1 the length of each semitrailer or trailer does not exceed 28-1/2
2 feet each, or the overall length of the semitrailer and trailer, or
3 2 semitrailers as measured from the front of the first towed unit
4 to the rear of the second towed unit while the units are coupled
5 together does not exceed 58 feet.

6 (e) More than 1 motor vehicle, wholly or partially assembled,
7 in combination, utilizing 1 tow bar or 3 saddle mounts with full
8 mount mechanisms and utilizing the motive power of 1 of the
9 vehicles in combination: ~~not to exceed~~ 75 feet.

10 (F) TRUCK TRACTOR AND LOWBOY SEMITRAILER COMBINATIONS: NO
11 MAXIMUM OVERALL LENGTH, IF THE LOWBOY SEMITRAILER DOES NOT EXCEED
12 59 FEET, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION. A
13 LOWBOY SEMITRAILER WHEELBASE SHALL NOT EXCEED 55 FEET AS MEASURED
14 FROM THE KINGPIN COUPLING TO THE CENTER OF THE REAR AXLE. A LOWBOY
15 SEMITRAILER MORE THAN 59 FEET IN LENGTH SHALL NOT OPERATE WITH MORE
16 THAN ANY COMBINATION OF 4 AXLES ON THE LOWBOY UNLESS AN OVERSIZED
17 LOAD PERMIT IS ISSUED BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT OR A
18 LOCAL AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO HIGHWAYS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION. AS
19 USED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, "LOWBOY SEMITRAILER" MEANS A FLATBED
20 SEMITRAILER WITH A DEPRESSED SECTION THAT HAS THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE
21 OF BEING LOWERED AND RAISED FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING.

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

23 (a) A truck shall not haul more than 1 trailer or semitrailer,
24 and a truck tractor shall not haul more than 2 semitrailers or 1
25 semitrailer and 1 trailer in combination at any 1 time, except that
26 a farm tractor may haul 2 wagons or trailers, or garbage and refuse
27 haulers may, during daylight hours, haul up to 4 trailers for

1 garbage and refuse collection purposes, not exceeding in any
2 combination a total length of 55 feet and at a speed limit not to
3 exceed 15 miles per hour.

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

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

10 (d) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), a combination of
11 2 semitrailers pulled by a truck tractor, unless each semitrailer
12 uses a fifth wheel connecting assembly that conforms to the
13 requirements of the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963 PA 181,
14 MCL 480.11 to 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)(e)
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, 23 USC 127(D)~~ is amended to allow
11 crib vehicles carrying logs to be loaded as described in this
12 section.

13 (9) As used in this section:

14 (a) "Designated highway" means a highway approved by the state
15 transportation department or a local authority with respect to a
16 highway under its jurisdiction.

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. 721. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5),
8 a passenger vehicle or a pickup truck shall not be driven upon a
9 highway drawing or having attached to the passenger vehicle or
10 pickup truck more than 1 vehicle or trailer.

11 (2) The drawbar or other connection between 2 vehicles, 1 of
12 which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall not exceed
13 15 feet in length from 1 vehicle to the other. If the connection
14 consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon
15 the connection a red flag or other signal or cloth not less than 12
16 inches both in length and width.

17 (3) A vehicle or trailer towed or drawn by a vehicle shall be
18 attached to the vehicle with forms of coupling devices in a manner
19 so that when the combination is operated in a linear alignment on a
20 level, smooth, paved surface, the movement of the towed or drawn
21 vehicle or trailer does not deviate more than 3 inches to either
22 side of the path of the towing vehicle that tows or draws it. The
23 vehicle or trailer shall also be connected to the towing vehicle by
24 suitable safety chains or devices, 1 on each side of the coupling
25 and at the extreme outer edge of the vehicle or trailer. Each chain
26 or device and connection used shall be of sufficient strength to
27 haul the vehicle or trailer when loaded. In the case of an

1 implement of husbandry with a gross vehicle weight rating or gross
2 combination weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, the safety
3 chains or devices required under this subsection shall conform to
4 the federal motor carrier safety regulations requirements contained
5 in 49 ~~C.F.R.~~ **CFR** 393.70(d)(5).

6 (4) A pickup truck with a fifth wheel assembly shall not tow a
7 semitrailer unless the fifth wheel assembly conforms to the
8 standards prescribed in the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963
9 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to ~~480.22~~ **480.25**.

10 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pickup truck with a
11 towing rating equal to, or greater than, the weight being towed,
12 equipped with a fifth wheel assembly that conforms with the
13 standards prescribed in the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963
14 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to ~~480.22~~ **480.25**, towing attached with a
15 semitrailer designed for recreational living purposes may tow an
16 additional trailer or semitrailer under the following conditions:

17 (a) The additional trailer or semitrailer shall be attached
18 ~~pursuant to~~ **AS PROVIDED IN** subsection (3). The safety chains
19 described in subsection (3) shall be securely attached at the
20 extreme outer edge of the attached trailer or semitrailer with a
21 locking mechanism. The towing vehicle hitch shall be of substantial
22 material and shall be attached in a proper and skillful manner to
23 the frame of the towing vehicle.

24 (b) The total length of the pickup truck, semitrailer designed
25 for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer or
26 semitrailer, and load, shall not exceed ~~65~~ **75** feet on any highways
27 in this state.

1 (c) The gross weight of the additional trailer or semitrailer
2 towed or drawn shall not exceed the empty weight of the pickup
3 truck or the empty weight of the semitrailer.

4 (6) For the purposes of this section, a pickup truck towing a
5 semitrailer and additional trailer shall be considered a passenger
6 vehicle and shall comply with the speed limit requirements of
7 section 627(5).

8 (7) A person who violates this section is responsible for a
9 civil infraction.