

HOUSE BILL No. 5610

May 9, 2012, Introduced by Rep. Darany 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 (5),
2 a **PERSON SHALL NOT OPERATE A** passenger vehicle or a pickup truck
3 ~~shall not be driven~~ upon a highway drawing or having attached to
4 the passenger vehicle or pickup truck more than 1 vehicle or
5 trailer.

6 (2) The drawbar or other connection between 2 vehicles, 1 of
7 which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall not exceed
8 15 feet in length from 1 vehicle to the other. If the connection
9 consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon

1 the connection a red flag or other signal or cloth not less than 12
2 inches both in length and width.

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

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

23 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a pickup truck with a
24 towing rating equal to, or greater than, the weight being towed,
25 equipped with a fifth wheel assembly that conforms with the
26 standards prescribed in the motor carrier safety act of 1963, 1963
27 PA 181, MCL 480.11 to ~~480.22~~ **480.25**, towing attached with a

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

3 (a) The additional trailer or semitrailer shall be attached
4 ~~pursuant to~~ **AS PRESCRIBED IN** subsection (3). The safety chains
5 described in subsection (3) shall be securely attached at the
6 extreme outer edge of the attached trailer or semitrailer with a
7 locking 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 designed
11 for recreational living purposes, and additional trailer or
12 semitrailer, and load, shall not exceed 65 feet on any highways in
13 this state.

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

17 (6) For the purposes of this section, a pickup truck towing a
18 semitrailer and additional trailer ~~shall be~~ **IS** considered a
19 passenger vehicle and shall comply with the speed limit
20 requirements of section 627(5).

21 **(7) A PERSON SHALL NOT OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE UPON A HIGHWAY**
22 **WITH TEMPORARY TOWING DEVICES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A**
23 **BALL AND HITCH, ATTACHED TO THE VEHICLE UNLESS THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS**
24 **BEING USED FOR TOWING PURPOSES.**

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