

# Weight

*257.716/.722/.724*

257.716

- (2) The provisions of this chapter governing size, weight, and load shall not apply to a:
  - fire apparatus



257.716

- (2) [cont.]
  - an implement of husbandry

*(see Implement of husbandry def.)*



257.716

- (2) [cont.]
  - a boat lift or oversized hydraulic boat trailer





257.716

- (2) [cont.]
  - a combination of vehicles described in, and under the conditions provided by, subsection (4) [Wrecker]



257.716

- (2) [cont.]
  - a vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit.



257.716

- (3) MDOT Permit Authority
- (4) Wrecker



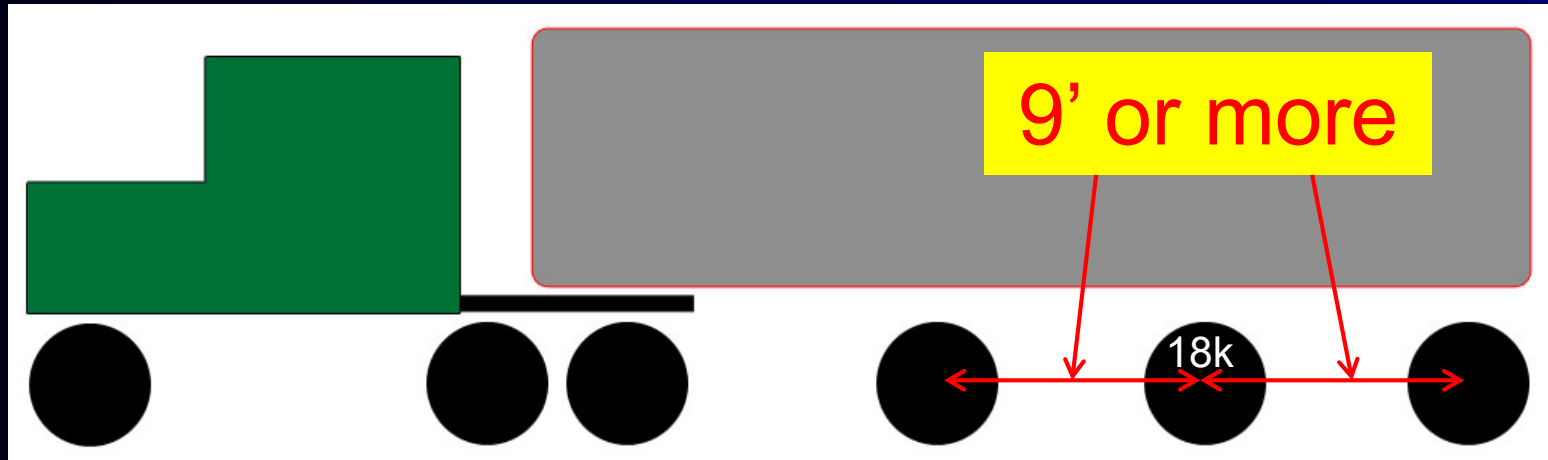
257.722  
(Normal Loading Maximum)

- Sec. 722. (1) The maximum axle load shall not exceed the number of pounds designated in the following provisions that prescribe the distance between axles:



# 257.722 - Normal Loading Maximum

- (1)(a) If the axle spacing is 9 feet or more between axles, the maximum axle load shall not exceed 18,000 pounds for vehicles equipped with high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.



## 257.722 - Normal Loading Maximum

- (1)(b) If the axle spacing is less than 9 feet between 2 axles but more than 3-1/2 feet, the maximum axle load shall not exceed 13,000 pounds for high pressure pneumatic or balloon tires.

# 257.722 - Normal Loading Maximum



Less than 9', but more  
than 3 ½'



## 257.722 - Normal Loading Maximum

- (1)(c) If the axles are spaced less than 3-1/2 feet apart, the maximum axle load shall not exceed 9,000 pounds per axle.



# 257.722 - Normal Loading Maximum



Less than 3 ½'

9k

# 257.722 - Normal Loading Maximum

- (1)(d) Subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) shall be known as the normal loading maximum.

# Definitions

“Tandem axle” defined.

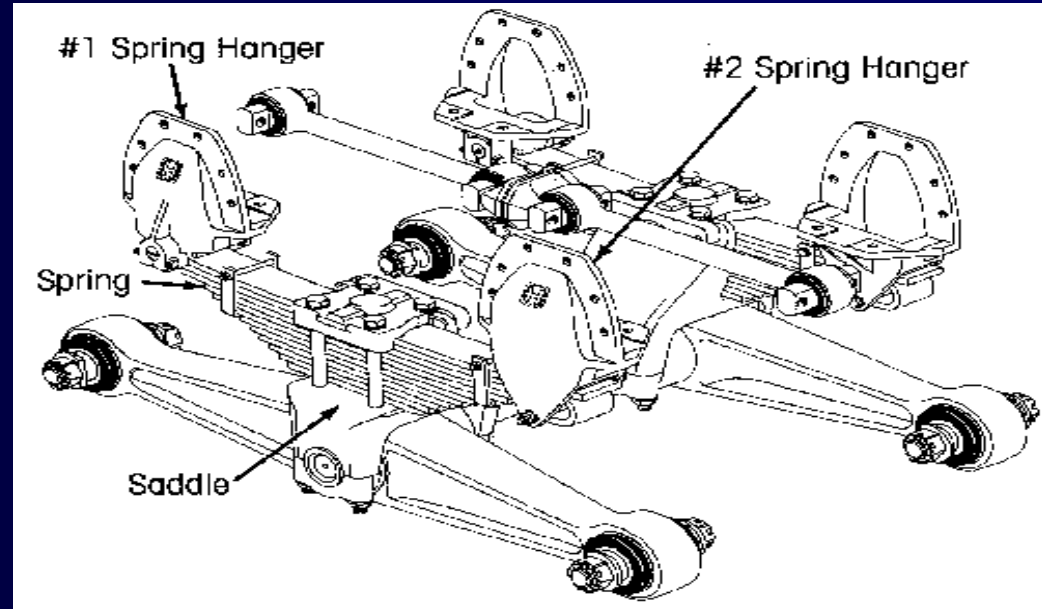
- “Tandem axle” means 2 axles spaced more than 3 feet 6 inches and less than 9 feet apart.



# Definitions

“Tandem axle assembly” defined.

- “Tandem axle assembly” also includes a mechanism to distribute the weight equally between the 2 axles.





## 257.722 - Designated Highway

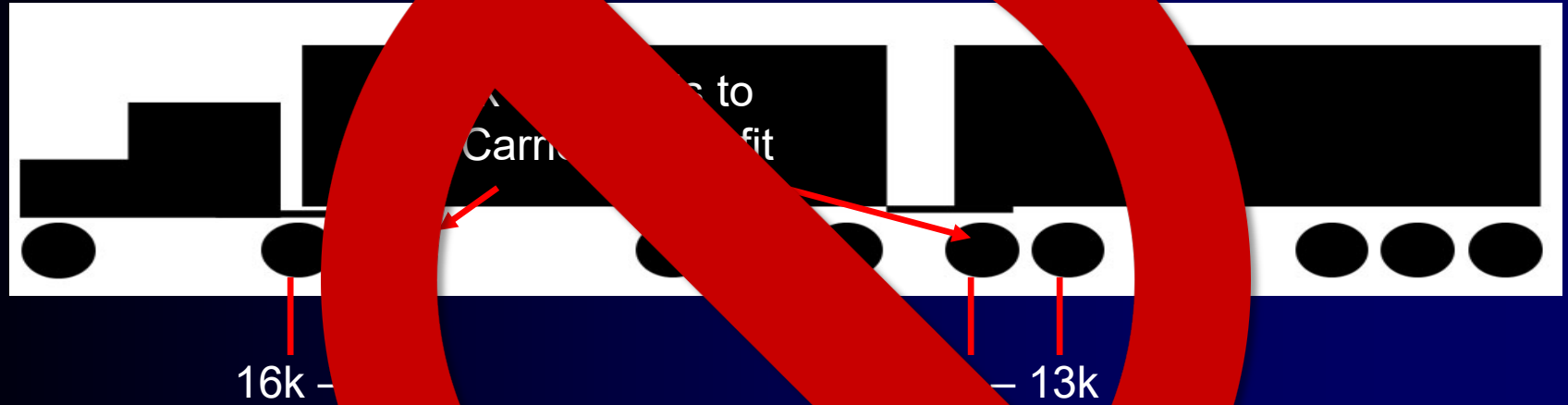
- (2) maximum tandem axle assembly loading shall not exceed 16,000 pounds for any axle of the assembly, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the assembly.

# 257.722 - Designated Highway



# 257.722

- (3) A combination of vehicles may operate on designated highways with not more than 1 tandem axle assembly having a gross weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of the assembly.



**NO LONGER APPLIES – EFFECTIVE SEP 2018**



# 257.722

- (3) [cont.] On a combination of truck tractor and semitrailer having not more than 5 axles, 2 consecutive tandem axle assemblies may operate on designated highways at a gross permissible weight of 16,000 pounds per axle, if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of either assembly.



# 257.722

- (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), on a combination of truck tractor and semitrailer having not more than 5 axles, 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross permissible weight of not to exceed 17,000 pounds on any axle of the tandem axles if there is no other axle within 9 feet of any axle of the tandem axles and if the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart and the gross vehicle weight does not exceed 80,000 pounds to pick up and deliver agricultural commodities between the national truck network or special designated highways and any other highway.

# 257.722(4) [cont.]



17k – 17k

17k – 17k

1. Not Less than 36' apart
2. Does not exceed 80k #
3. Agricultural Commodities
4. Section does not apply during frost law

# 257.722

- (5) The seasonal reductions described under subsection (8) to the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirement of subsection (12) do not apply to a person hauling agricultural commodities if the person who picks up or delivers the agricultural commodity either from a farm or to a farm notifies the county road commission for roads under its authority not less than 48 hours before the pickup or delivery of the time and location of the pickup or delivery. The county road commission shall issue a permit to the person and charge a fee that does not exceed the administrative costs incurred. The permit shall contain all of the following:

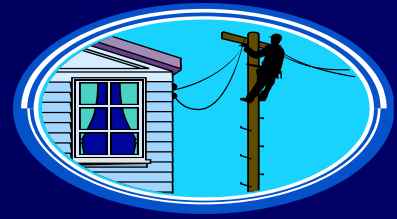


## 257.722(5) cont.

- (a) The designated route or routes of travel for the load.
- (b) The date and time period requested by the person who picks up or delivers the agricultural commodities during which the load may be delivered or picked up.
- (c) A maximum speed limit of travel, if necessary.
- (d) Any other specific conditions agreed to between the parties.







- (6) The seasonal reductions described under subsection (8) to the loading maximums and gross vehicle weight requirements of subsection (12) do not apply to public utility vehicles under the following circumstances:

257.722



Two main provisions, we **will not**  
cover in detail:

1. Emergency
2. Non-Emergency

257.722

- (7) The normal size of tires shall be the rated size as published by the manufacturers, and the maximum wheel load permissible for any wheel shall not exceed 700 pounds per inch of width of tire.



257.722



- (8) Except as provided in this subsection and subsection (9), during the months of March, April, and May in each year, the maximum axle load allowable on concrete pavements or pavements with a concrete base is reduced by 25% from the maximum axle load as specified in this chapter, and the maximum axle loads allowable on all other types of roads during these months are reduced by 35% from the maximum axle loads as specified.

## 257.722(8) cont

- The maximum wheel load shall not exceed 525 pounds per inch of tire width on concrete and concrete base or 450 pounds per inch of tire width on all other roads during the period the seasonal road restrictions are in effect. Subject to subsection (5), this subsection does not apply to vehicles transporting agricultural commodities or, subject to subsection (6), public utility vehicles on a highway, road, or street under the jurisdiction of a local road agency, or a school bus.



## 257.722(8) cont

- In addition, this subsection does not apply to a vehicle delivering propane fuel to a residence if the vehicle's propane tank is filled to not more than 50% of its capacity and the vehicle is traveling at not more than 35 miles per hour.



## 257.722(8) cont



- **Compiler's Notes:** Enacting section 1 of Act 522 of 2012 provides: "Enacting section 1. It is the intent of the legislature that the exception to the seasonal weight reductions in subsection (8) of section 722 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.722, as added by this amendatory act, applies only to emergency deliveries of propane."

257.722(8) cont



JARCO

- As used in this enacting section, "**emergency delivery**" **means** a delivery to a customer whose residential fuel tank is estimated to contain no more than 25% of its heating fuel capacity on the date of delivery."

## 257.722(8) cont

- The state transportation department and each local authority with highways and streets under its jurisdiction to which the seasonal restrictions prescribed under this subsection apply shall post all of the following information on the homepage of its website or, if a local authority does not have a website, then on the website of a statewide road association of which it is a member:



## 257.722(8) cont

(a) The dates when the seasonal restrictions are in effect.

(b) The names of the highways and streets and portions of highways and streets to which the seasonal restrictions apply.





## 257.722 (9)

- (9) The state transportation department for roads under its jurisdiction and a county road commission for roads under its jurisdiction may grant exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions for milk on specified routes when requested in writing. Approval or denial of a request for an exemption shall be given by written notice to the applicant within 30 days after the date of submission of the application.



## 257.722 (9) cont

- If a request is denied, the written notice shall state the reason for denial and alternate routes for which the permit may be issued. The applicant may appeal to the state transportation commission or the county road commission. These exemptions do not apply on county roads in counties that have negotiated agreements with milk haulers or haulers of other commodities during periods of seasonal load limits before April 14, 1993. This subsection does not limit the ability of these counties to continue to negotiate such agreements.

## 257.722 (10)

- (10) The state transportation department, or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, **may suspend the restrictions** imposed by this section when and where conditions of the highways or the public health, safety, and welfare warrant suspension, **and impose the restricted loading** requirements of this section on designated highways at any other time that the conditions of the highway require.

## 257.722

- (11) For the purpose of enforcing this act, the gross vehicle weight of a single vehicle and load or a combination of vehicles and loads, shall be determined by weighing individual axles or groups of axles, and the total weight on all the axles shall be the gross vehicle weight. In addition, the gross axle weight shall be determined by weighing individual axles or by weighing a group of axles and dividing the gross weight of the group of axles by the number of axles in the group.



## 257.722(11) cont.

- For purposes of subsection (12), the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more axles shall be determined by weighing individual axles or several axles, and the total weight of all the axles in the group shall be the overall gross weight of the group.

## 257.722

- (12) The loading maximum in this subsection applies to interstate highways, and the state transportation department, or a local authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, may designate a highway, or a section of a highway, for the operation of vehicles having a gross vehicle weight of **not more than 80,000** pounds that are subject to the following load maximums:

## 257.722(12) cont.

- (a) Twenty thousand pounds on any 1 axle, including all enforcement tolerances.
- (b) A tandem axle weight of 34,000 pounds, including all enforcement tolerances.
- (c) An overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles equaling:

$$W = 500 / LN + 12N + 36 \setminus N1 /$$

## 257.722(12) cont.

- where W = overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet between the extreme of a group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; **except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles are not less than 36 feet apart.**

## 257.722(12) cont.

- The gross vehicle weight shall not exceed 80,000 pounds including all enforcement tolerances. Except for 5 axle truck tractor, semitrailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles, vehicles having a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds or in excess of the vehicle gross weight determined by application of the formula in this subsection are subject to the maximum axle loads of subsections (1), (2), and (3).

257.722(12) cont.



\*\* 5 axle truck tractor, semitrailer combinations having 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles. DOES NOT REVERT to 1, 2, 3



## 257.722(12) cont.

- As used in this subsection, "tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles, the centers of which may be included between parallel transverse vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches but not more than 96 inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle. Except as otherwise provided in this section, vehicles transporting agricultural commodities shall have weight load maximums as set forth in this subsection.



# 257.722 (13)

- (13) The axle loading maximums under subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) are **increased by 10%** for vehicles transporting agricultural commodities or raw timber, excluding farm equipment and fuel, **from the place of harvest or farm storage to the first point of delivery** on a road in this state. However, the axle loading maximums as increased under this subsection do not alter the gross vehicle weight restrictions set forth in this act.



# 257.722 (13) cont.

This subsection does not apply to either of the following:

- (a) A vehicle utilizing an **interstate highway**.
- (b) A vehicle utilizing a road that is subject to **seasonal weight restrictions** under subsection (8) during the time that the seasonal weight restrictions are in effect.

257.722

- (14) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a vehicle that has a **gross weight of 80,000 pounds or less** and that is operated by an engine that is **fueled wholly or partially by compressed or liquefied natural gas** may exceed the axle loading maximums under subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) and the weight load maximums under subsection (12) by an amount equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. **The amount** by which a vehicle described in this subsection may exceed the axle loading maximums under subsections (1), (2), (3), and (4) and the weight load maximums under subsection (12) **shall not exceed 2,000 pounds**.



257.722

(15) As used in this section:

(a) "Agricultural commodities" means those plants and animals useful to human beings produced by agriculture and includes, but is not limited to, forages and sod crops, grains and feed crops, field crops, dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, cervidae, livestock, including breeding and grazing, equine, fish, and other aquacultural products, bees and bee products, berries, herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock, mushrooms, fertilizer, livestock bedding, farming equipment, fuel for agricultural use, and maple sap. **Agricultural commodities do not include trees or lumber.**



- (b) "Emergency public utility work" means work performed to restore public utility service or to eliminate a danger to the public due to a natural disaster, an act of God, or an emergency situation, whether or not a public official has declared an emergency.

257.722(15)





- (b) "Emergency public utility work" means work performed to restore public utility service or to eliminate a danger to the public due to a natural disaster, an act of God, or an emergency situation, whether or not a public official has declared an emergency.

257.722(15) cont.



257.722(15) cont.

- (c) “Farm Storage” means any of the following:

(i) An edifice, silo, tank, bin, crib, interstice, or protected enclosed structure, or more than 1 edifice, silo, tank, bin, crib, interstice, or protected enclosed structure located contiguous to each other.

(ii) An open environment used for the purpose of temporarily storing a crop.



## 257.722(15) cont.

- (d) **"Public utility"** means a public utility under the jurisdiction of the public service commission or a transmission company.
- (e) **"Public utility vehicle"** means a vehicle owned or operated by a public utility or operated by a subcontractor on behalf of a public utility.
- (f) **"Transmission company"** means either an affiliated transmission company or an independent transmission company as those terms are defined in section 2 of the electric transmission line certification act, 1995 PA 30, MCL 460.562.

# 257.724



- STOPPING FOR WEIGH



- WEIGHT FINES

# 257.724

- (1) A police officer, a peace officer, or an authorized agent of the state transportation department or a county road commission having reason to believe that the weight of a vehicle and load is unlawful may require the driver to stop and submit to a weighing of the vehicle by either portable or stationary scales **approved and sealed as a legal weighing device by a qualified person using testing equipment certified or approved by the department of agriculture as a legal weighing device**





## 257.724(1) cont.

- and may require that the vehicle be driven to the nearest weigh station of the state transportation department for the purpose of allowing a police officer, peace officer, or agent of the state transportation department or county road commission to determine whether the vehicle is loaded in conformity with this chapter.



# 257.724

- (2) When the officer or agent, upon weighing a vehicle and load, determines that the weight is unlawful, the officer or agent may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable place and remain standing until that portion of the load is shifted or removed as necessary to reduce the gross axle load weight of the vehicle to the limit permitted under this chapter.

**MUST MAKE LEGAL**

## 257.724(2) cont.

- All material unloaded as provided under this subsection shall be cared for by the owner or operator of the vehicle at the risk of the owner or operator.

MUST MAKE LEGAL

## 257.724(2) cont.

- The officer or agent who has determined, after weighing a vehicle and load, that the weight is unlawful, may require the driver to proceed to a judge or magistrate within the county.

BOND/IMPOUND

## 257.724(2) cont.

- When the duly authorized agent of the state transportation department or county road commission is performing duties under this chapter, **the agent has all the powers conferred upon peace officers** by the general laws of this state.

POWERS OF PEACE OFFICER

## 257.724

- (3) Subject to subsection (4), an owner of a vehicle or a lessee of the vehicle of an owner-operator, or other person, who causes or allows a vehicle to be loaded and driven or moved on a highway, when the weight of that vehicle violates section 722 is responsible for a civil infraction and shall pay a civil fine

AXLE FINES

## 257.724(3) cont.

- in an amount equal to 3 cents per pound for each pound of excess load over 1,000 pounds when the excess is 2,000 pounds or less; 6 cents per pound of excess load when the excess is over 2,000 pounds but not over 3,000 pounds; 9 cents per pound for each pound of excess load when the excess is over 3,000 pounds but not over 4,000 pounds;

AXLE FINES



## 257.724(3) cont.

- 12 cents per pound for each pound of excess load when the excess is over 4,000 pounds but not over 5,000 pounds; 15 cents per pound for each pound of excess load when the excess is over 5,000 pounds but not over 10,000 pounds; and 20 cents per pound for each pound of excess load when the excess is over 10,000 pounds.

AXLE FINES

## 257.724 (4)

- (4) Beginning January 1, 2006, if the court determines that the motor vehicle or the combination of vehicles was operated in violation of this section, the court shall impose a fine as follows:

OVERGROSS = AXLE FINES

## 257.724(4) cont.

- (a) If the court determines that the motor vehicle or the combination of vehicles was operated in such a manner that the gross weight of the vehicle or the combination of vehicles would not be lawful by a proper distribution of the load upon all the axles of the vehicle or the combination of vehicles, the court shall impose a fine for the violation according to the schedule provided for in subsection (3).

OVERGROSS = AXLE FINES

## 257.724(4) cont.

- (b) If the court determines that the motor vehicle or the combination of vehicles would be lawful by a proper distribution of the load upon all of the axles of the vehicle or the combination of vehicles, but that 1 or more axles of the vehicle exceeded the maximum allowable axle weight by **more than 1,000 pounds but less than 4,000 pounds**, the court may impose a misload fine of \$200.00 per axle.

UNDERGROSS MISLOAD FINES

## 257.724(4) cont.

- Not more than 3 axles shall be used in calculating the fine to be imposed under this subdivision. This **subdivision does not apply** to a vehicle subject to the maximum loading provisions of section 722(12) or to a vehicle **for which a fine as calculated under the schedule in subsection (3) would be less** than the fine as calculated under this subsection.

UNDERGROSS MISLOAD FINES

## 257.724(4) cont.

- (c) If the court determines that the motor vehicle or the combination of vehicles would meet the loading conditions specified in a **special permit that was issued under section 725** by a proper distribution of the load upon all of the axles of the vehicle or the combination of vehicles, but that 1 or more axles of the vehicle **exceeded the permitted axle weight by 1,000 pounds or less**, the court shall impose a misload fine of **\$200.00 per axle. Not more than 3 axles** shall be used in calculating the fine to be imposed under this subdivision.

**.725 PERMIT, MISLOAD**

## 257.724(4) cont.

- ...If the court determines that the load was misloaded, the conditions of the special permit remain valid. The imposition of a fine does not void the special permit.

.725 PERMIT, MISLOAD



## 257.724(4) cont.

- (d) If the court determines that the motor vehicle or the combination of vehicles would be lawful by a proper distribution of the load upon all of the axles of the vehicle or the combination of vehicles, but that **1 or more axles of the vehicle exceeded the permitted axle weight by more than 4,000 pounds**, the court shall impose a fine for the violation according to the schedule provided in subsection (3).

MISLOAD TOO HEAVY = AXLE FNES

- (5) A driver or owner of a commercial vehicle with other vehicles or trailers in combination, a truck or truck tractor, a truck or truck tractor with other vehicles in combination, or any special mobile equipment who **fails to stop at or bypasses** any scales or weighing station is guilty of a misdemeanor.

257.724 (5)



**BYPASSING**

# 257.724 (6)

- (6) An agent or authorized representative of the state transportation department or a county road commission shall not stop a truck or vehicle in movement upon a road or highway within the state for any purpose, **unless** the agent or authorized representative is **driving a duly marked vehicle**, clearly showing and denoting the branch of government represented.



ENF. VEHICLE MARKINGS

# 257.724 (7)

- (7) A driver or owner of a vehicle who knowingly fails to stop when requested or ordered to do so and submit to a weighing by a police officer, a peace officer, or an authorized agent of the state transportation department, or a representative or agent of a county road commission, authorized to require the driver to **stop and submit to a weighing of the vehicle** and load by means of a portable scale, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

FAILED TO SUBMIT TO WEIGH

- (7) [CONT.]

257.724 (7)

A driver or **person who dumps his or her load when ordered to submit to a weigh** or who otherwise attempts to commit or commits an act to avoid a vehicle weigh is in violation of this section

DUMPING LOAD

