

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 15-111 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/15-111) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-111)

7 Sec. 15-111. Wheel and axle loads and gross weights.

8 (a) No vehicle or combination of vehicles with pneumatic  
9 tires may be operated, unladen or with load, when the total  
10 weight on the road surface exceeds the following: 20,000 pounds  
11 on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle with no axle  
12 within the tandem exceeding 20,000 pounds; 80,000 pounds gross  
13 weight for vehicle combinations of 5 or more axles; or a total  
14 weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles in excess of  
15 that weight produced by the application of the following  
16 formula:  $W = 500 \text{ times the sum of } (LN \text{ divided by } N-1) + 12N +$   
17  $36$ , where "W" equals overall total weight on any group of 2 or  
18 more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, "L" equals  
19 the distance measured to the nearest foot between extremes of  
20 any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" equals the  
21 number of axles in the group under consideration.

22 The above formula when expressed in tabular form results in  
23 allowable loads as follows:

|    |                   |         |                             |         |         |         |
|----|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1  | Distance measured |         |                             |         |         |         |
| 2  | to the nearest    |         |                             |         |         |         |
| 3  | foot between the  |         |                             |         |         |         |
| 4  | extremes of any   |         | Maximum weight in pounds    |         |         |         |
| 5  | group of 2 or     |         | of any group of             |         |         |         |
| 6  | more consecutive  |         | 2 or more consecutive axles |         |         |         |
| 7  | axles             |         |                             |         |         |         |
| 8  | feet              | 2 axles | 3 axles                     | 4 axles | 5 axles | 6 axles |
| 9  | 4                 | 34,000  |                             |         |         |         |
| 10 | 5                 | 34,000  |                             |         |         |         |
| 11 | 6                 | 34,000  |                             |         |         |         |
| 12 | 7                 | 34,000  |                             |         |         |         |
| 13 | 8                 | 38,000* | 42,000                      |         |         |         |
| 14 | 9                 | 39,000  | 42,500                      |         |         |         |
| 15 | 10                | 40,000  | 43,500                      |         |         |         |
| 16 | 11                |         | 44,000                      |         |         |         |
| 17 | 12                |         | 45,000                      | 50,000  |         |         |
| 18 | 13                |         | 45,500                      | 50,500  |         |         |
| 19 | 14                |         | 46,500                      | 51,500  |         |         |
| 20 | 15                |         | 47,000                      | 52,000  |         |         |
| 21 | 16                |         | 48,000                      | 52,500  | 58,000  |         |
| 22 | 17                |         | 48,500                      | 53,500  | 58,500  |         |
| 23 | 18                |         | 49,500                      | 54,000  | 59,000  |         |
| 24 | 19                |         | 50,000                      | 54,500  | 60,000  |         |
| 25 | 20                |         | 51,000                      | 55,500  | 60,500  | 66,000  |

|    |    |        |        |        |        |
|----|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1  | 21 | 51,500 | 56,000 | 61,000 | 66,500 |
| 2  | 22 | 52,500 | 56,500 | 61,500 | 67,000 |
| 3  | 23 | 53,000 | 57,500 | 62,500 | 68,000 |
| 4  | 24 | 54,000 | 58,000 | 63,000 | 68,500 |
| 5  | 25 | 54,500 | 58,500 | 63,500 | 69,000 |
| 6  | 26 | 55,500 | 59,500 | 64,000 | 69,500 |
| 7  | 27 | 56,000 | 60,000 | 65,000 | 70,000 |
| 8  | 28 | 57,000 | 60,500 | 65,500 | 71,000 |
| 9  | 29 | 57,500 | 61,500 | 66,000 | 71,500 |
| 10 | 30 | 58,500 | 62,000 | 66,500 | 72,000 |
| 11 | 31 | 59,000 | 62,500 | 67,500 | 72,500 |
| 12 | 32 | 60,000 | 63,500 | 68,000 | 73,000 |
| 13 | 33 |        | 64,000 | 68,500 | 74,000 |
| 14 | 34 |        | 64,500 | 69,000 | 74,500 |
| 15 | 35 |        | 65,500 | 70,000 | 75,000 |
| 16 | 36 |        | 66,000 | 70,500 | 75,500 |
| 17 | 37 |        | 66,500 | 71,000 | 76,000 |
| 18 | 38 |        | 67,500 | 72,000 | 77,000 |
| 19 | 39 |        | 68,000 | 72,500 | 77,500 |
| 20 | 40 |        | 68,500 | 73,000 | 78,000 |
| 21 | 41 |        | 69,500 | 73,500 | 78,500 |
| 22 | 42 |        | 70,000 | 74,000 | 79,000 |
| 23 | 43 |        | 70,500 | 75,000 | 80,000 |
| 24 | 44 |        | 71,500 | 75,500 |        |
| 25 | 45 |        | 72,000 | 76,000 |        |
| 26 | 46 |        | 72,500 | 76,500 |        |

|    |    |        |        |
|----|----|--------|--------|
| 1  | 47 | 73,500 | 77,500 |
| 2  | 48 | 74,000 | 78,000 |
| 3  | 49 | 74,500 | 78,500 |
| 4  | 50 | 75,500 | 79,000 |
| 5  | 51 | 76,000 | 80,000 |
| 6  | 52 | 76,500 |        |
| 7  | 53 | 77,500 |        |
| 8  | 54 | 78,000 |        |
| 9  | 55 | 78,500 |        |
| 10 | 56 | 79,500 |        |
| 11 | 57 | 80,000 |        |

12 \*If the distance between 2 axles is 96 inches or less, the 2  
13 axles are tandem axles and the maximum total weight may not  
14 exceed 34,000 pounds, notwithstanding the higher limit  
15 resulting from the application of the formula.

16 Vehicles not in a combination having more than 4 axles may  
17 not exceed the weight in the table in this subsection (a) for 4  
18 axles measured between the extreme axles of the vehicle.

19 Vehicles in a combination having more than 6 axles may not  
20 exceed the weight in the table in this subsection (a) for 6  
21 axles measured between the extreme axles of the combination.

22 Local authorities, with respect to streets and highways  
23 under their jurisdiction, without additional fees, may also by  
24 ordinance or resolution allow the weight limitations of this  
25 subsection, provided the maximum gross weight on any one axle  
26 shall not exceed 20,000 pounds and the maximum total weight on

1 any tandem axle shall not exceed 34,000 pounds, on designated  
2 highways when appropriate regulatory signs giving notice are  
3 erected upon the street or highway or portion of any street or  
4 highway affected by the ordinance or resolution.

5 The following are exceptions to the above formula:

6 (1) Vehicles for which a different limit is established  
7 and posted in accordance with Section 15-316 of this Code.

8 (2) Vehicles for which the Department of  
9 Transportation and local authorities issue overweight  
10 permits under authority of Section 15-301 of this Code.  
11 These vehicles are not subject to the bridge formula.

12 (3) Cities having a population of more than 50,000 may  
13 permit by ordinance axle loads on 2-axle motor vehicles 33  
14 1/2% above those provided for herein, but the increase  
15 shall not become effective until the city has officially  
16 notified the Department of the passage of the ordinance and  
17 shall not apply to those vehicles when outside of the  
18 limits of the city, nor shall the gross weight of any  
19 2-axle motor vehicle operating over any street of the city  
20 exceed 40,000 pounds.

21 (4) Weight limitations shall not apply to vehicles  
22 (including loads) operated by a public utility when  
23 transporting equipment required for emergency repair of  
24 public utility facilities or properties or water wells.

25 (4.5) A 3-axle or 4-axle vehicle (including when laden)  
26 operated or hired by a municipality within Cook, Lake,

1 McHenry, Kane, DuPage, or Will county being operated for  
2 the purpose of performing emergency sewer repair that would  
3 be subject to a weight limitation less than 66,000 pounds  
4 under the formula in this subsection (a) shall have a  
5 weight limitation of 66,000 pounds or the vehicle's gross  
6 vehicle weight rating, whichever is less. This paragraph  
7 (4.5) does not apply to vehicles being operated on the  
8 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, or to  
9 vehicles being operated on bridges or other elevated  
10 structures constituting a part of a highway.

11 (5) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a  
12 total weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance  
13 between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of  
14 tandem axles is 36 feet or more, notwithstanding the lower  
15 limit resulting from the application of the above formula.

16 (6) A truck, not in combination and used exclusively  
17 for the collection of rendering materials, may, when laden,  
18 transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of the  
19 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, the  
20 following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle;  
21 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle.

22 (7) A truck not in combination, equipped with a self  
23 compactor or an industrial roll-off hoist and roll-off  
24 container, used exclusively for garbage, refuse, or  
25 recycling operations, may, when laden, transmit upon the  
26 road surface, except when on part of the National System of

1 Interstate and Defense Highways, the following maximum  
2 weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a  
3 tandem axle; 40,000 pounds gross weight on a 2-axle  
4 vehicle; 54,000 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle.  
5 This vehicle is not subject to the bridge formula.

6 (7.5) A 3-axle rear discharge truck mixer registered as  
7 a Special Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively for the mixing  
8 and transportation of concrete in the plastic state, may,  
9 when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except when on  
10 part of the National System of Interstate and Defense  
11 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on  
12 single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle; 54,000 pounds  
13 gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle. This vehicle is not  
14 subject to the bridge formula.

15 (8) Except as provided in paragraph (7.5) of this  
16 subsection (a), tandem axles on a 3-axle truck registered  
17 as a Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in  
18 the model year of 2024 and first registered in Illinois  
19 prior to January 1, 2025, with a distance greater than 72  
20 inches but not more than 96 inches between any series of 2  
21 axles, is allowed a combined weight on the series not to  
22 exceed 36,000 pounds and neither axle of the series may  
23 exceed 20,000 pounds. Any vehicle of this type manufactured  
24 after the model year of 2024 or first registered in  
25 Illinois after December 31, 2024 may not exceed a combined  
26 weight of 34,000 pounds through the series of 2 axles and

1           neither axle of the series may exceed 20,000 pounds.

2           A 3-axle combination sewer cleaning jetting vacuum  
3 truck registered as a Special Hauling Vehicle, used  
4 exclusively for the transportation of non-hazardous solid  
5 waste, manufactured before or in the model year of 2014,  
6 first registered in Illinois before January 1, 2015, may,  
7 when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except when on  
8 part of the National System of Interstate and Defense  
9 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a  
10 single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle; 54,000 pounds  
11 gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle. This vehicle is not  
12 subject to the bridge formula.

13           (9) A 4-axle truck mixer registered as a Special  
14 Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively for the mixing and  
15 transportation of concrete in the plastic state, and not  
16 operated on a highway that is part of the National System  
17 of Interstate Highways, is allowed the following maximum  
18 weights: 20,000 pounds on any single axle; 36,000 pounds on  
19 a series of axles greater than 72 inches but not more than  
20 96 inches; and 34,000 pounds on any series of 2 axles  
21 greater than 40 inches but not more than 72 inches. The  
22 gross weight of this vehicle may not exceed the weights  
23 allowed by the bridge formula for 4 axles. The bridge  
24 formula does not apply to any series of 3 axles while the  
25 vehicle is transporting concrete in the plastic state, but  
26 no axle or tandem axle of the series may exceed the maximum



1 weight permitted under this paragraph (9) of subsection  
2 (a).

3 (10) Combinations of vehicles, registered as Special  
4 Hauling Vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured  
5 prior to or in the model year of 2024, and registered in  
6 Illinois prior to January 1, 2025, having 5 axles with a  
7 distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles, may not  
8 exceed the following maximum weights: 20,000 pounds on a  
9 single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle; and 72,000  
10 pounds gross weight. This combination of vehicles is not  
11 subject to the bridge formula. For all those combinations  
12 of vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured after  
13 the effective date of P.A. 92-0417, the overall distance  
14 between the first and last axles of the 2 sets of tandems  
15 must be 18 feet 6 inches or more. Any combination of  
16 vehicles that has had its cargo container replaced in its  
17 entirety after December 31, 2024 may not exceed the weights  
18 allowed by the bridge formula.

19 (11) The maximum weight allowed on a vehicle with  
20 crawler type tracks is 40,000 pounds.

21 (12) A combination of vehicles, including a tow truck  
22 and a disabled vehicle or disabled combination of vehicles,  
23 that exceeds the weight restriction imposed by this Code,  
24 may be operated on a public highway in this State provided  
25 that neither the disabled vehicle nor any vehicle being  
26 towed nor the tow truck itself shall exceed the weight

1 limitations permitted under this Chapter. During the  
2 towing operation, neither the tow truck nor the vehicle  
3 combination shall exceed 24,000 pounds on a single rear  
4 axle and 44,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle, provided the  
5 towing vehicle:

6 (i) is specifically designed as a tow truck having  
7 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000 pounds  
8 and is equipped with air brakes, provided that air  
9 brakes are required only if the towing vehicle is  
10 towing a vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer  
11 combination that is equipped with air brakes;

12 (ii) is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
13 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
14 in all directions;

15 (iii) is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
16 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
17 of vehicles; and

18 (iv) does not engage in a tow exceeding 20 miles  
19 from the initial point of wreck or disablement. Any  
20 additional movement of the vehicles may occur only upon  
21 issuance of authorization for that movement under the  
22 provisions of Sections 15-301 through 15-318 of this  
23 Code. The towing vehicle, however, may tow any disabled  
24 vehicle to a point where repairs are actually to occur.  
25 This movement shall be valid only on State routes. The  
26 tower must abide by posted bridge weight limits.

1           (12.5) The vehicle weight limitations in this Section  
2 do not apply to a covered heavy duty tow and recovery  
3 vehicle. The covered heavy duty tow and recovery vehicle  
4 license plate must cover the operating empty weight of the  
5 covered heavy duty tow and recovery vehicle only.

6           (12.6) The vehicle and axle weight limitations in this  
7 Section do not apply to an extreme heavy duty tow and  
8 recovery vehicle if either: (i) the vehicle may lawfully be  
9 used to clear a disabled vehicle from the roadway to the  
10 berm or shoulder of the highway and is traveling to or from  
11 the scene of the disablement; or (ii) the Department of  
12 Transportation has issued an overweight permit for the  
13 vehicle under authority of Section 15-301. As used in this  
14 Section, "extreme heavy duty tow and recovery vehicle"  
15 means a tow truck manufactured as a unit having a lifting  
16 capacity not less than 50 tons, and having either 4 axles  
17 and an unladen weight not more than 80,000 pounds or 5  
18 axles and an unladen weight not more than 90,000 pounds.

19           (13) Upon and during a declaration of an emergency  
20 propane supply disaster by the Governor under Section 7 of  
21 the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act:

22           (i) a truck not in combination, equipped with a  
23 cargo tank, used exclusively for the transportation of  
24 propane or liquefied petroleum gas may, when laden,  
25 transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of  
26 the National System of Interstate and Defense

1 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds  
2 on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle;  
3 40,000 pounds gross weight on a 2-axle vehicle; 54,000  
4 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle; and

5 (ii) a truck when in combination with a trailer  
6 equipped with a cargo tank used exclusively for the  
7 transportation of propane or liquefied petroleum gas  
8 may, when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except  
9 when on part of the National System of Interstate and  
10 Defense Highways, the following maximum weights:  
11 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a  
12 tandem axle; 90,000 pounds gross weight on a 5-axle or  
13 6-axle vehicle.

14 Vehicles operating under this paragraph (13) are not  
15 subject to the bridge formula.

16 (14) A vehicle or combination of vehicles that uses  
17 natural gas or propane gas as a motor fuel may exceed the  
18 above weight limitations by up to 2,000 pounds, the total  
19 allowance is calculated by an amount that is equal to the  
20 difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable  
21 to the natural gas or propane gas tank and fueling system  
22 carried by the vehicle, and the weight of a comparable  
23 diesel tank and fueling system. This paragraph (14) shall  
24 not allow a vehicle to exceed any posted weight limit on a  
25 highway or structure.

26 (15) An emergency vehicle or fire apparatus that is a

1 vehicle designed to be used under emergency conditions to  
2 transport personnel and equipment, and used to support the  
3 suppression of fires and mitigation of other hazardous  
4 situations on a Class I highway, may not exceed 86,000  
5 pounds gross weight, or any of the following weight  
6 allowances:

7 (i) 24,000 pounds on a single steering axle;

8 (ii) 33,500 pounds on a single drive axle;

9 (iii) 62,000 pounds on a tandem axle; or

10 (iv) 52,000 pounds on a tandem rear drive steer  
11 axle.

12 (16) A bus, motor coach, or recreational vehicle may  
13 carry a total weight of 24,000 pounds on a single axle, but  
14 may not exceed other weight provisions of this Section.

15 Gross weight limits shall not apply to the combination of  
16 the tow truck and vehicles being towed. The tow truck license  
17 plate must cover the operating empty weight of the tow truck  
18 only. The weight of each vehicle being towed shall be covered  
19 by a valid license plate issued to the owner or operator of the  
20 vehicle being towed and displayed on that vehicle. If no valid  
21 plate issued to the owner or operator of that vehicle is  
22 displayed on that vehicle, or the plate displayed on that  
23 vehicle does not cover the weight of the vehicle, the weight of  
24 the vehicle shall be covered by the third tow truck plate  
25 issued to the owner or operator of the tow truck and  
26 temporarily affixed to the vehicle being towed. If a roll-back

1 carrier is registered and being used as a tow truck, however,  
2 the license plate or plates for the tow truck must cover the  
3 gross vehicle weight, including any load carried on the bed of  
4 the roll-back carrier.

5 The Department may by rule or regulation prescribe  
6 additional requirements. However, nothing in this Code shall  
7 prohibit a tow truck under instructions of a police officer  
8 from legally clearing a disabled vehicle, that may be in  
9 violation of weight limitations of this Chapter, from the  
10 roadway to the berm or shoulder of the highway. If in the  
11 opinion of the police officer that location is unsafe, the  
12 officer is authorized to have the disabled vehicle towed to the  
13 nearest place of safety.

14 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight  
15 rating, or GVWR, means the value specified by the manufacturer  
16 as the loaded weight of the tow truck.

17 (b) As used in this Section, "recycling haul" or "recycling  
18 operation" means the hauling of non-hazardous, non-special,  
19 non-putrescible materials, such as paper, glass, cans, or  
20 plastic, for subsequent use in the secondary materials market.

21 (c) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with  
22 pneumatic tires shall be operated, unladen or with load, upon  
23 the highways of this State in violation of the provisions of  
24 any permit issued under the provisions of Sections 15-301  
25 through 15-318 of this Chapter.

26 (d) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with

1 other than pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with  
2 load, upon the highways of this State when the gross weight on  
3 the road surface through any wheel exceeds 800 pounds per inch  
4 width of tire tread or when the gross weight on the road  
5 surface through any axle exceeds 16,000 pounds.

6 (e) No person shall operate a vehicle or combination of  
7 vehicles over a bridge or other elevated structure constituting  
8 part of a highway with a gross weight that is greater than the  
9 maximum weight permitted by the Department, when the structure  
10 is sign posted as provided in this Section.

11 (f) The Department upon request from any local authority  
12 shall, or upon its own initiative may, conduct an investigation  
13 of any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part  
14 of a highway, and if it finds that the structure cannot with  
15 safety to itself withstand the weight of vehicles otherwise  
16 permissible under this Code the Department shall determine and  
17 declare the maximum weight of vehicles that the structures can  
18 withstand, and shall cause or permit suitable signs stating  
19 maximum weight to be erected and maintained before each end of  
20 the structure. No person shall operate a vehicle or combination  
21 of vehicles over any structure with a gross weight that is  
22 greater than the posted maximum weight.

23 (g) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation  
24 of subsection (e) or (f) of this Section, proof of the  
25 determination of the maximum allowable weight by the Department  
26 and the existence of the signs, constitutes conclusive evidence

1 of the maximum weight that can be maintained with safety to the  
2 bridge or structure.

3 (Source: P.A. 99-78, eff. 7-20-15; 99-717, eff. 8-5-16;  
4 100-366, eff. 1-1-18; 100-728, eff. 1-1-19.)

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.