

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 2  
19 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 (5) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a  
26 total weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance

1 between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of  
2 tandem axles is 36 feet or more, notwithstanding the lower  
3 limit resulting from the application of the above formula.

4 (6) A truck, not in combination and used exclusively  
5 for the collection of rendering materials, may, when laden,  
6 transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of the  
7 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, the  
8 following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle;  
9 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle.

10 (7) A truck not in combination, equipped with a self  
11 compactor or an industrial roll-off hoist and roll-off  
12 container, used exclusively for garbage, refuse, or  
13 recycling operations, may, when laden, transmit upon the  
14 road surface, except when on part of the National System of  
15 Interstate and Defense Highways, the following maximum  
16 weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a  
17 tandem axle; 40,000 pounds gross weight on a 2-axle  
18 vehicle; 54,000 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle.  
19 This vehicle is not subject to the bridge formula.

20 (8) Tandem axles on a 3-axle truck registered as a  
21 Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in the  
22 model year of 2024 ~~2014~~ and first registered in Illinois  
23 prior to January 1, 2025 ~~2015~~, with a distance greater than  
24 72 inches but not more than 96 inches between any series of  
25 2 axles, is allowed a combined weight on the series not to  
26 exceed 36,000 pounds and neither axle of the series may

1 exceed 20,000 pounds. Any vehicle of this type manufactured  
2 after the model year of 2024 ~~2014~~ or first registered in  
3 Illinois after December 31, 2024 ~~2014~~ may not exceed a  
4 combined weight of 34,000 pounds through the series of 2  
5 axles and neither axle of the series may exceed 20,000  
6 pounds.

7 (9) A 4-axle truck mixer registered as a Special  
8 Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively for the mixing and  
9 transportation of concrete in the plastic state,  
10 manufactured before or in the model year of 2024 ~~2014~~,  
11 first registered in Illinois before January 1, 2025 ~~2015~~,  
12 and not operated on a highway that is part of the National  
13 System of Interstate Highways, is allowed the following  
14 maximum weights: 20,000 pounds on any single axle; 36,000  
15 pounds on a series of axles greater than 72 inches but not  
16 more than 96 inches; and 34,000 pounds on any series of 2  
17 axles greater than 40 inches but not more than 72 inches.  
18 The gross weight of this vehicle may not exceed the weights  
19 allowed by the bridge formula for 4 axles. The bridge  
20 formula does not apply to any series of 3 axles while the  
21 vehicle is transporting concrete in the plastic state, but  
22 no axle or tandem axle of the series may exceed the maximum  
23 weight permitted under this paragraph (9) of subsection  
24 (a).

25 (10) Combinations of vehicles, registered as Special  
26 Hauling Vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured

1 prior to or in the model year of 2024 ~~2014~~, and registered  
2 in Illinois prior to January 1, 2025 ~~2015~~, having 5 axles  
3 with a distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles,  
4 may not exceed the following maximum weights: 20,000 pounds  
5 on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle; and  
6 72,000 pounds gross weight. This combination of vehicles is  
7 not subject to the bridge formula. For all those  
8 combinations of vehicles that include a semitrailer  
9 manufactured after the effective date of P.A. 92-0417, the  
10 overall distance between the first and last axles of the 2  
11 sets of tandems must be 18 feet 6 inches or more. Any  
12 combination of vehicles that has had its cargo container  
13 replaced in its entirety after December 31, 2024 ~~2014~~ may  
14 not exceed the weights allowed by the bridge formula.

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

17 (12) A combination of vehicles, including a tow truck  
18 and a disabled vehicle or disabled combination of vehicles,  
19 that exceeds the weight restriction imposed by this Code,  
20 may be operated on a public highway in this State provided  
21 that neither the disabled vehicle nor any vehicle being  
22 towed nor the tow truck itself shall exceed the weight  
23 limitations permitted under this Chapter. During the  
24 towing operation, neither the tow truck nor the vehicle  
25 combination shall exceed 24,000 pounds on a single rear  
26 axle and 44,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle, provided the



1           towing vehicle:

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

8                   (ii) is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
9                   oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
10                   in all directions;

11                   (iii) is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
12                   braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
13                   of vehicles; and

14                   (iv) does not engage in a tow exceeding 20 miles  
15                   from the initial point of wreck or disablement. Any  
16                   additional movement of the vehicles may occur only upon  
17                   issuance of authorization for that movement under the  
18                   provisions of Sections 15-301 through 15-319 of this  
19                   Code. The towing vehicle, however, may tow any disabled  
20                   vehicle to a point where repairs are actually to occur.  
21                   This movement shall be valid only on State routes. The  
22                   tower must abide by posted bridge weight limits.

23                   Gross weight limits shall not apply to the combination of  
24                   the tow truck and vehicles being towed. The tow truck license  
25                   plate must cover the operating empty weight of the tow truck  
26                   only. The weight of each vehicle being towed shall be covered

1 by a valid license plate issued to the owner or operator of the  
2 vehicle being towed and displayed on that vehicle. If no valid  
3 plate issued to the owner or operator of that vehicle is  
4 displayed on that vehicle, or the plate displayed on that  
5 vehicle does not cover the weight of the vehicle, the weight of  
6 the vehicle shall be covered by the third tow truck plate  
7 issued to the owner or operator of the tow truck and  
8 temporarily affixed to the vehicle being towed. If a roll-back  
9 carrier is registered and being used as a tow truck, however,  
10 the license plate or plates for the tow truck must cover the  
11 gross vehicle weight, including any load carried on the bed of  
12 the roll-back carrier.

13 The Department may by rule or regulation prescribe  
14 additional requirements. However, nothing in this Code shall  
15 prohibit a tow truck under instructions of a police officer  
16 from legally clearing a disabled vehicle, that may be in  
17 violation of weight limitations of this Chapter, from the  
18 roadway to the berm or shoulder of the highway. If in the  
19 opinion of the police officer that location is unsafe, the  
20 officer is authorized to have the disabled vehicle towed to the  
21 nearest place of safety.

22 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight  
23 rating, or GVWR, means the value specified by the manufacturer  
24 as the loaded weight of the tow truck.

25 (b) As used in this Section, "recycling haul" or "recycling  
26 operation" means the hauling of non-hazardous, non-special,

1 non-putrescible materials, such as paper, glass, cans, or  
2 plastic, for subsequent use in the secondary materials market.

3 (c) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with  
4 pneumatic tires shall be operated, unladen or with load, upon  
5 the highways of this State in violation of the provisions of  
6 any permit issued under the provisions of Sections 15-301  
7 through 15-319 of this Chapter.

8 (d) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with  
9 other than pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with  
10 load, upon the highways of this State when the gross weight on  
11 the road surface through any wheel exceeds 800 pounds per inch  
12 width of tire tread or when the gross weight on the road  
13 surface through any axle exceeds 16,000 pounds.

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

19 (f) The Department upon request from any local authority  
20 shall, or upon its own initiative may, conduct an investigation  
21 of any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part  
22 of a highway, and if it finds that the structure cannot with  
23 safety to itself withstand the weight of vehicles otherwise  
24 permissible under this Code the Department shall determine and  
25 declare the maximum weight of vehicles that the structures can  
26 withstand, and shall cause or permit suitable signs stating

1 maximum weight to be erected and maintained before each end of  
2 the structure. No person shall operate a vehicle or combination  
3 of vehicles over any structure with a gross weight that is  
4 greater than the posted maximum weight.

5 (g) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation  
6 of subsection (e) or (f) of this Section, proof of the  
7 determination of the maximum allowable weight by the Department  
8 and the existence of the signs, constitutes conclusive evidence  
9 of the maximum weight that can be maintained with safety to the  
10 bridge or structure.

11 (Source: P.A. 96-34, eff. 1-1-10; 96-37, eff. 7-13-09; 97-201,  
12 eff. 1-1-12.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
14 1, 2014.