



## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

**HB6427**

by Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

605 ILCS 5/5-111 new  
625 ILCS 5/15-111

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-111

Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Provides that the county board of each county may impose weight limits on vehicles to be operated upon a county highway. The county shall erect and maintain signs designating the weight limits at each end of that portion of the affected highway. The limits shall not apply to vehicles owned by a unit of local government, State government, or federal government. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that a county that elects to increase vehicle weight limits under the Illinois Highway Code is exempt from axle and total weight limits under the Illinois Vehicle Code. Effective immediately.

LRB099 21278 AXK 46889 b

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 Highway Code is amended by adding  
5 Section 5-111 as follows:

6 (605 ILCS 5/5-111 new)

7 Sec. 5-111. Vehicle weight limits. The county board of each  
8 county may by ordinance or resolution impose weight limits on  
9 vehicles to be operated upon a county highway. The county shall  
10 erect and maintain signs designating the weight limits at each  
11 end of that portion of the affected highway. This Section shall  
12 not apply to vehicles owned by a unit of local government,  
13 State government, or federal government.

14 Section 10. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by  
15 changing Section 15-111 as follows:

16 (625 ILCS 5/15-111) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-111)

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

18 (a) No vehicle or combination of vehicles with pneumatic  
19 tires may be operated, unladen or with load, when the total  
20 weight on the road surface exceeds the following: 20,000 pounds  
21 on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle with no axle

1 within the tandem exceeding 20,000 pounds; 80,000 pounds gross  
 2 weight for vehicle combinations of 5 or more axles; or a total  
 3 weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles in excess of  
 4 that weight produced by the application of the following  
 5 formula:  $W = 500 \text{ times the sum of } (LN \text{ divided by } N-1) + 12N +$   
 6  $36$ , where "W" equals overall total weight on any group of 2 or  
 7 more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, "L" equals  
 8 the distance measured to the nearest foot between extremes of  
 9 any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" equals the  
 10 number of axles in the group under consideration.

11 The above formula when expressed in tabular form results in  
 12 allowable loads as follows:

13	Distance measured					
14	to the nearest					
15	foot between the					
16	extremes of any		Maximum weight in pounds			
17	group of 2 or		of any group of			
18	more consecutive		2 or more consecutive axles			
19	axles					
20	feet	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
21	4	34,000				
22	5	34,000				
23	6	34,000				
24	7	34,000				
25	8	38,000*	42,000			

1	9	39,000	42,500			
2	10	40,000	43,500			
3	11		44,000			
4	12		45,000	50,000		
5	13		45,500	50,500		
6	14		46,500	51,500		
7	15		47,000	52,000		
8	16		48,000	52,500	58,000	
9	17		48,500	53,500	58,500	
10	18		49,500	54,000	59,000	
11	19		50,000	54,500	60,000	
12	20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
13	21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
14	22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
15	23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
16	24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
17	25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
18	26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500
19	27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
20	28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
21	29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500
22	30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000
23	31		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500
24	32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000
25	33			64,000	68,500	74,000
26	34			64,500	69,000	74,500

1	35	65,500	70,000	75,000
2	36	66,000	70,500	75,500
3	37	66,500	71,000	76,000
4	38	67,500	72,000	77,000
5	39	68,000	72,500	77,500
6	40	68,500	73,000	78,000
7	41	69,500	73,500	78,500
8	42	70,000	74,000	79,000
9	43	70,500	75,000	80,000
10	44	71,500	75,500	
11	45	72,000	76,000	
12	46	72,500	76,500	
13	47	73,500	77,500	
14	48	74,000	78,000	
15	49	74,500	78,500	
16	50	75,500	79,000	
17	51	76,000	80,000	
18	52	76,500		
19	53	77,500		
20	54	78,000		
21	55	78,500		
22	56	79,500		
23	57	80,000		

24 \*If the distance between 2 axles is 96 inches or less, the 2  
25 axles are tandem axles and the maximum total weight may not  
26 exceed 34,000 pounds, notwithstanding the higher limit

1 resulting from the application of the formula.

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

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

8 Except for a county that elects to increase vehicle weight  
9 limits under Section 5-111 of the Illinois Highway Code, local  
10 ~~Local~~ authorities, with respect to streets and highways under  
11 their jurisdiction, without additional fees, may also by  
12 ordinance or resolution allow the weight limitations of this  
13 subsection, provided the maximum gross weight on any one axle  
14 shall not exceed 20,000 pounds and the maximum total weight on  
15 any tandem axle shall not exceed 34,000 pounds, on designated  
16 highways when appropriate regulatory signs giving notice are  
17 erected upon the street or highway or portion of any street or  
18 highway affected by the ordinance or resolution.

19 The following are exceptions to the above formula:

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

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

26 (3) Cities having a population of more than 50,000 may

1 permit by ordinance axle loads on 2-axle motor vehicles 33  
2 1/2% above those provided for herein, but the increase  
3 shall not become effective until the city has officially  
4 notified the Department of the passage of the ordinance and  
5 shall not apply to those vehicles when outside of the  
6 limits of the city, nor shall the gross weight of any  
7 2-axle motor vehicle operating over any street of the city  
8 exceed 40,000 pounds.

9 (4) Weight limitations shall not apply to vehicles  
10 (including loads) operated by a public utility when  
11 transporting equipment required for emergency repair of  
12 public utility facilities or properties or water wells.

13 (4.5) A 3-axle or 4-axle vehicle (including when laden)  
14 operated or hired by a municipality within Cook, Lake,  
15 McHenry, Kane, DuPage, or Will county being operated for  
16 the purpose of performing emergency sewer repair that would  
17 be subject to a weight limitation less than 66,000 pounds  
18 under the formula in this subsection (a) shall have a  
19 weight limitation of 66,000 pounds or the vehicle's gross  
20 vehicle weight rating, whichever is less. This paragraph  
21 (4.5) does not apply to vehicles being operated on the  
22 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, or to  
23 vehicles being operated on bridges or other elevated  
24 structures constituting a part of a highway.

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 (7.5) A 3-axle rear discharge truck mixer registered as  
21 a Special Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively for the mixing  
22 and transportation of concrete in the plastic state, may,  
23 when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except when on  
24 part of the National System of Interstate and Defense  
25 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on  
26 single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle; 54,000 pounds



1 gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle. This vehicle is not  
2 subject to the bridge formula.

3 (8) Except as provided in paragraph (7.5) of this  
4 subsection (a), tandem axles on a 3-axle truck registered  
5 as a Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in  
6 the model year of 2024 and first registered in Illinois  
7 prior to January 1, 2025, with a distance greater than 72  
8 inches but not more than 96 inches between any series of 2  
9 axles, is allowed a combined weight on the series not to  
10 exceed 36,000 pounds and neither axle of the series may  
11 exceed 20,000 pounds. Any vehicle of this type manufactured  
12 after the model year of 2024 or first registered in  
13 Illinois after December 31, 2024 may not exceed a combined  
14 weight of 34,000 pounds through the series of 2 axles and  
15 neither axle of the series may exceed 20,000 pounds.

16 A 3-axle combination sewer cleaning jetting vacuum  
17 truck registered as a Special Hauling Vehicle, used  
18 exclusively for the transportation of non-hazardous solid  
19 waste, manufactured before or in the model year of 2014,  
20 first registered in Illinois before January 1, 2015, may,  
21 when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except when on  
22 part of the National System of Interstate and Defense  
23 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a  
24 single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle; 54,000 pounds  
25 gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle. This vehicle is not  
26 subject to the bridge formula.

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

17           (10) Combinations of vehicles, registered as Special  
18 Hauling Vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured  
19 prior to or in the model year of 2024, and registered in  
20 Illinois prior to January 1, 2025, having 5 axles with a  
21 distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles, may not  
22 exceed the following maximum weights: 20,000 pounds on a  
23 single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle; and 72,000  
24 pounds gross weight. This combination of vehicles is not  
25 subject to the bridge formula. For all those combinations  
26 of vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured after

1 the effective date of P.A. 92-0417, the overall distance  
2 between the first and last axles of the 2 sets of tandems  
3 must be 18 feet 6 inches or more. Any combination of  
4 vehicles that has had its cargo container replaced in its  
5 entirety after December 31, 2024 may not exceed the weights  
6 allowed by the bridge formula.

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

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

20 (i) is specifically designed as a tow truck having  
21 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000 pounds  
22 and is equipped with air brakes, provided that air  
23 brakes are required only if the towing vehicle is  
24 towing a vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer  
25 combination that is equipped with air brakes;

26 (ii) is equipped with flashing, rotating, or

1 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
2 in all directions;

3 (iii) is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
4 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
5 of vehicles; and

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

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

18 (i) a truck not in combination, equipped with a  
19 cargo tank, used exclusively for the transportation of  
20 propane or liquefied petroleum gas may, when laden,  
21 transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of  
22 the National System of Interstate and Defense  
23 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds  
24 on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle;  
25 40,000 pounds gross weight on a 2-axle vehicle; 54,000  
26 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle; and

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

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

12          (14) A vehicle or combination of vehicles that uses  
13 natural gas or propane gas as a motor fuel may exceed the  
14 above weight limitations by 2,000 pounds, except on  
15 interstate highways as defined by Section 1-133.1 of this  
16 Code. This paragraph (14) shall not allow a vehicle to  
17 exceed any posted weight limit on a highway or structure.

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

1 the vehicle shall be covered by the third tow truck plate  
2 issued to the owner or operator of the tow truck and  
3 temporarily affixed to the vehicle being towed. If a roll-back  
4 carrier is registered and being used as a tow truck, however,  
5 the license plate or plates for the tow truck must cover the  
6 gross vehicle weight, including any load carried on the bed of  
7 the roll-back carrier.

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

17 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight  
18 rating, or GVWR, means the value specified by the manufacturer  
19 as the loaded weight of the tow truck.

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

24 (c) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with  
25 pneumatic tires shall be operated, unladen or with load, upon  
26 the highways of this State in violation of the provisions of

1 any permit issued under the provisions of Sections 15-301  
2 through 15-319 of this Chapter.

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

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

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

26 (g) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation

1 of subsection (e) or (f) of this Section, proof of the  
2 determination of the maximum allowable weight by the Department  
3 and the existence of the signs, constitutes conclusive evidence  
4 of the maximum weight that can be maintained with safety to the  
5 bridge or structure.

6 (Source: P.A. 98-409, eff. 1-1-14; 98-410, eff. 8-16-13;  
7 98-756, eff. 7-16-14; 98-942, eff. 1-1-15; 98-956, eff. 1-1-15;  
8 98-1029, eff. 1-1-15; 99-78, eff. 7-20-15.)

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
10 becoming law.