



94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State of Illinois
2005 and 2006
SB1471

Introduced 2/23/2005, by Sen. J. Bradley Burzynski

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/15-111
625 ILCS 5/15-111.1 new

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

Provides that the Department of Transportation and local authorities may specify highways in their respective jurisdictions upon which loads of up to 120,000 pounds are allowed without a special permit. Creates an exception where a bridge or other elevated structure constitutes part of the highway. Effective immediately.

LRB094 11148 DRH 41782 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 Vehicle Code is amended by changing
5 Section 15-111 and by adding Section 15-111.1 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) On non-designated highways, except as provided in
9 Section 15-111.1, no vehicle or combination of vehicles
10 equipped with pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with
11 load, when the total weight transmitted to the road surface
12 exceeds 18,000 pounds on a single axle or 32,000 pounds on a
13 tandem axle with no axle within the tandem exceeding 18,000
14 pounds except:

15 (1) when a different limit is established and posted in
16 accordance with Section 15-316 of this Code;

17 (2) vehicles for which the Department of
18 Transportation and local authorities issue overweight
19 permits under authority of Section 15-301 of this Code;

20 (3) tow trucks subject to the conditions provided in
21 subsection (d) may not exceed 24,000 pounds on a single
22 rear axle or 44,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle;

23 (4) any single axle of a 2-axle truck weighing 36,000
24 pounds or less and not a part of a combination of vehicles,
25 shall not exceed 20,000 pounds;

26 (5) any single axle of a 2-axle truck equipped with a
27 personnel lift or digger derrick, weighing 36,000 pounds or
28 less, owned and operated by a public utility, shall not
29 exceed 20,000 pounds;

30 (6) any single axle of a 2-axle truck specially
31 equipped with a front loading compactor used exclusively
32 for garbage, refuse, or recycling may not exceed 20,000

1 pounds per axle, provided that the gross weight of the
2 vehicle does not exceed 40,000 pounds;

3 (7) a truck, not in combination and specially equipped
4 with a selfcompactor or an industrial roll-off hoist and
5 roll-off container, used exclusively for garbage or refuse
6 operations may, when laden, transmit upon the road surface
7 the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a single
8 axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle;

9 (8) a truck, not in combination and used exclusively
10 for the collection of rendering materials, may, when laden,
11 transmit upon the road surface the following maximum
12 weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a
13 tandem axle;

14 (9) tandem axles on a 3-axle truck registered as a
15 Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in the
16 model year of 2014 and first registered in Illinois prior
17 to January 1, 2015, with a distance greater than 72 inches
18 but not more than 96 inches between any series of 2 axles,
19 is allowed a combined weight on the series not to exceed
20 36,000 pounds and neither axle of the series may exceed
21 18,000 pounds. Any vehicle of this type manufactured after
22 the model year of 2014 or first registered in Illinois
23 after December 31, 2014 may not exceed a combined weight of
24 32,000 pounds through the series of 2 axles and neither
25 axle of the series may exceed 18,000 pounds;

26 (10) tandem axles on a 4-axle truck mixer, whose fourth
27 axle is a road surface engaging mixer trailing axle,
28 registered as a Special Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively
29 for the mixing and transportation of concrete and
30 manufactured prior to or in the model year of 2014 and
31 first registered in Illinois prior to January 1, 2015, with
32 a distance greater than 72 inches but not more than 96
33 inches between any series of 2 axles, is allowed a combined
34 weight on the series not to exceed 36,000 pounds and
35 neither axle of the series may exceed 18,000 pounds. Any
36 vehicle of this type manufactured after the model year of

1 2014 or first registered in Illinois after December 31,
 2 2014 may not exceed a combined weight of 32,000 pounds
 3 through the series of 2 axles and neither axle of the
 4 series may exceed 18,000 pounds;

5 (11) 4-axle vehicles or a 5 or more axle combination of
 6 vehicles: The weight transmitted upon the road surface
 7 through any series of 3 axles whose centers are more than
 8 96 inches apart, measured between extreme axles in the
 9 series, may not exceed those allowed in the table contained
 10 in subsection (f) of this Section. No axle or tandem axle
 11 of the series may exceed the maximum weight permitted under
 12 this Section for a single or tandem axle.

13 No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with other
 14 than pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with load,
 15 upon the highways of this State when the gross weight on the
 16 road surface through any wheel exceeds 800 pounds per inch
 17 width of tire tread or when the gross weight on the road
 18 surface through any axle exceeds 16,000 pounds.

19 (b) On non-designated highways, except as provided in
 20 Section 15-111.1, the gross weight of vehicles and combination
 21 of vehicles including the weight of the vehicle or combination
 22 and its maximum load shall be subject to the foregoing
 23 limitations and further shall not exceed the following gross
 24 weights dependent upon the number of axles and distance between
 25 extreme axles of the vehicle or combination measured
 26 longitudinally to the nearest foot.

27 VEHICLES HAVING 2 AXLES 36,000 pounds

28 VEHICLES OR COMBINATIONS			
29 HAVING 3 AXLES			
30 With Tandem		With or	
31 Axles		Without	
		Tandem Axles	
33 Minimum		Minimum	
34 distance to	Maximum	distance to	Maximum

1	nearest foot	Gross	nearest foot	Gross
2	between	Weight	between	Weight
3	extreme axles	(pounds)	extreme axles	(pounds)
4	10 feet	41,000	16 feet	46,000
5	11	42,000	17	47,000
6	12	43,000	18	47,500
7	13	44,000	19	48,000
8	14	44,500	20	49,000
9	15	45,000	21 feet or more	50,000

10

11 VEHICLES OR COMBINATIONS HAVING 4 AXLES

12	Minimum		Minimum	
13	distance to	Maximum	distance to	Maximum
14	nearest foot	Gross	nearest foot	Gross
15	between	Weight	between	Weight
16	extreme axles	(pounds)	extreme axles	(pounds)
17	15 feet	50,000	26 feet	57,500
18	16	50,500	27	58,000
19	17	51,500	28	58,500
20	18	52,000	29	59,500
21	19	52,500	30	60,000
22	20	53,500	31	60,500
23	21	54,000	32	61,500
24	22	54,500	33	62,000
25	23	55,500	34	62,500
26	24	56,000	35	63,500
27	25	56,500	36 feet or more	64,000

28 A vehicle not in a combination having more than 4 axles may
 29 not exceed the weight in the table in this subsection (b) for 4
 30 axles measured between the extreme axles of the vehicle.

31

32 COMBINATIONS HAVING 5 OR MORE AXLES

33	Minimum distance to	Maximum
34	nearest foot between	Gross Weight
35	extreme axles	(pounds)
36	42 feet or less	72,000

1	43	73,000
2	44 feet or more	73,280

3 VEHICLES OPERATING ON CRAWLER TYPE TRACKS 40,000 pounds

4 TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH SELFCOMPACTORS
 5 OR ROLL-OFF HOISTS AND ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS FOR GARBAGE
 6 OR REFUSE HAULS ONLY AND TRUCKS USED FOR
 7 THE COLLECTION OF RENDERING MATERIALS
 8 On Highway Not Part of National System
 9 of Interstate and Defense Highways
 10 with 2 axles 36,000 pounds
 11 with 3 axles 54,000 pounds

12 TWO AXLE TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH
 13 A FRONT LOADING COMPACTOR USED EXCLUSIVELY
 14 FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE, REFUSE, OR RECYCLING
 15 with 2 axles 40,000 pounds

16 (c) Cities having a population of more than 50,000 may
 17 permit by ordinance axle loads on 2 axle motor vehicles 33 1/2%
 18 above those provided for herein, but, except as provided in
 19 Section 15-111.1, the increase shall not become effective until
 20 the city has officially notified the Department of the passage
 21 of the ordinance and shall not apply to those vehicles when
 22 outside of the limits of the city, nor shall the gross weight
 23 of any 2 axle motor vehicle operating over any street of the
 24 city exceed 40,000 pounds.

25 (d) Weight limitations shall not apply to vehicles
 26 (including loads) operated by a public utility when
 27 transporting equipment required for emergency repair of public
 28 utility facilities or properties or water wells.

29 A combination of vehicles, including a tow truck and a
 30 disabled vehicle or disabled combination of vehicles, that
 31 exceeds the weight restriction imposed by this Code, may be
 32 operated on a public highway in this State provided that

1 neither the disabled vehicle nor any vehicle being towed nor
2 the tow truck itself shall exceed the weight limitations
3 permitted under this Chapter. During the towing operation,
4 except as provided in Section 15-111.1, neither the tow truck
5 nor the vehicle combination shall exceed 24,000 pounds on a
6 single rear axle and 44,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle,
7 provided the towing vehicle:

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

14 (2) is equipped with flashing, rotating, or
15 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet in
16 all directions;

17 (3) is capable of utilizing the lighting and braking
18 systems of the disabled vehicle or combination of vehicles;
19 and

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

30 Gross weight limits shall not apply to the combination of
31 the tow truck and vehicles being towed. The tow truck license
32 plate must cover the operating empty weight of the tow truck
33 only. The weight of each vehicle being towed shall be covered
34 by a valid license plate issued to the owner or operator of the
35 vehicle being towed and displayed on that vehicle. If no valid
36 plate issued to the owner or operator of that vehicle is

1 displayed on that vehicle, or the plate displayed on that
2 vehicle does not cover the weight of the vehicle, the weight of
3 the vehicle shall be covered by the third tow truck plate
4 issued to the owner or operator of the tow truck and
5 temporarily affixed to the vehicle being towed.

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

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

18 (e) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with
19 pneumatic tires shall be operated, unladen or with load, upon
20 the highways of this State in violation of the provisions of
21 any permit issued under the provisions of Sections 15-301
22 through 15-319 of this Chapter.

23 (f) On designated Class I, II, or III highways and the
24 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, except as
25 provided in Section 15-111.1, no vehicle or combination of
26 vehicles with pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with
27 load, when the total weight on the road surface exceeds the
28 following: 20,000 pounds on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on a
29 tandem axle with no axle within the tandem exceeding 20,000
30 pounds; 80,000 pounds gross weight for vehicle combinations of
31 5 or more axles; or a total weight on a group of 2 or more
32 consecutive axles in excess of that weight produced by the
33 application of the following formula: $W = 500 \text{ times the sum of}$
34 $(LN \text{ divided by } N-1) + 12N + 36$, where "W" equals overall total
35 weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the
36 nearest 500 pounds, "L" equals the distance measured to the

1 nearest foot between extremes of any group of 2 or more
 2 consecutive axles, and "N" equals the number of axles in the
 3 group under consideration.

4 The above formula when expressed in tabular form results in
 5 allowable loads as follows:

6	Distance measured					
7	to the nearest					
8	foot between the					
9	extremes of any		Maximum weight in pounds			
10	group of 2 or		of any group of			
11	more consecutive		2 or more consecutive axles			
12	axles					
13	feet	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
14	4	34,000				
15	5	34,000				
16	6	34,000				
17	7	34,000				
18	8	38,000*	42,000			
19	9	39,000	42,500			
20	10	40,000	43,500			
21	11		44,000			
22	12		45,000	50,000		
23	13		45,500	50,500		
24	14		46,500	51,500		
25	15		47,000	52,000		
26	16		48,000	52,500	58,000	
27	17		48,500	53,500	58,500	
28	18		49,500	54,000	59,000	
29	19		50,000	54,500	60,000	
30	20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
31	21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
32	22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
33	23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
34	24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
35	25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000

1	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500
2	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
3	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
4	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500
5	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000
6	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500
7	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000
8	33		64,000	68,500	74,000
9	34		64,500	69,000	74,500
10	35		65,500	70,000	75,000
11	36		66,000	70,500	75,500
12	37		66,500	71,000	76,000
13	38		67,500	72,000	77,000
14	39		68,000	72,500	77,500
15	40		68,500	73,000	78,000
16	41		69,500	73,500	78,500
17	42		70,000	74,000	79,000
18	43		70,500	75,000	80,000
19	44		71,500	75,500	
20	45		72,000	76,000	
21	46		72,500	76,500	
22	47		73,500	77,500	
23	48		74,000	78,000	
24	49		74,500	78,500	
25	50		75,500	79,000	
26	51		76,000	80,000	
27	52		76,500		
28	53		77,500		
29	54		78,000		
30	55		78,500		
31	56		79,500		
32	57		80,000		

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

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

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

7 Local authorities, with respect to streets and highways
8 under their jurisdiction, without additional fees, may also by
9 ordinance or resolution allow the weight limitations of this
10 subsection, provided the maximum gross weight on any one axle
11 shall not exceed 20,000 pounds and the maximum total weight on
12 any tandem axle shall not exceed 34,000 pounds, on designated
13 highways when appropriate regulatory signs giving notice are
14 erected upon the street or highway or portion of any street or
15 highway affected by the ordinance or resolution.

16 The following are exceptions to the above formula:

17 (1) Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a
18 total weight of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance
19 between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of
20 tandem axles is 36 feet or more.

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

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

27 (4) Tow trucks subject to the conditions provided in
28 subsection (d) may not exceed 24,000 pounds on a single
29 rear axle or 44,000 pounds on a tandem rear axle.

30 (5) A tandem axle on a 3-axle truck registered as a
31 Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in the
32 model year of 2014, and registered in Illinois prior to
33 January 1, 2015, with a distance between 2 axles in a
34 series greater than 72 inches but not more than 96 inches
35 may not exceed a total weight of 36,000 pounds and neither
36 axle of the series may exceed 18,000 pounds.

1 (6) A truck not in combination, equipped with a self
2 compactor or an industrial roll-off hoist and roll-off
3 container, used exclusively for garbage or refuse
4 operations, may, when laden, transmit upon the road
5 surface, except when on part of the National System of
6 Interstate and Defense Highways, the following maximum
7 weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a
8 tandem axle; 36,000 pounds gross weight on a 2-axle
9 vehicle; 54,000 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle.
10 This vehicle is not subject to the bridge formula.

11 (7) Combinations of vehicles, registered as Special
12 Hauling Vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured
13 prior to or in the model year of 2014, and registered in
14 Illinois prior to January 1, 2015, having 5 axles with a
15 distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles, may not
16 exceed the following maximum weights: 18,000 pounds on a
17 single axle; 32,000 pounds on a tandem axle; and 72,000
18 pounds gross weight. This combination of vehicles is not
19 subject to the bridge formula. For all those combinations
20 of vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured after
21 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 92nd
22 General Assembly, the overall distance between the first
23 and last axles of the 2 sets of tandems must be 18 feet 6
24 inches or more. Any combination of vehicles that has had
25 its cargo container replaced in its entirety after December
26 31, 2014 may not exceed the weights allowed by the bridge
27 formula.

28 No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with other
29 than pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with load,
30 upon the highways of this State when the gross weight on the
31 road surface through any wheel exceeds 800 pounds per inch
32 width of tire tread or when the gross weight on the road
33 surface through any axle exceeds 16,000 pounds.

34 (f-1) A vehicle and load not exceeding 73,280 pounds,
35 except as provided in Section 15-111.1, is allowed access as
36 follows:

1 (1) From any State designated highway onto any county,
2 township, or municipal highway for a distance of 5 highway
3 miles for the purpose of loading and unloading, provided:

4 (A) The vehicle and load does not exceed 8 feet 6
5 inches in width and 65 feet overall length.

6 (B) There is no sign prohibiting that access.

7 (C) The route is not being used as a thoroughfare
8 between State designated highways.

9 (2) From any State designated highway onto any county
10 or township highway for a distance of 5 highway miles, or
11 any municipal highway for a distance of one highway mile
12 for the purpose of food, fuel, repairs, and rest, provided:

13 (A) The vehicle and load does not exceed 8 feet 6
14 inches in width and 65 feet overall length.

15 (B) There is no sign prohibiting that access.

16 (C) The route is not being used as a thoroughfare
17 between State designated highways.

18 (f-2) A vehicle and load greater than 73,280 pounds in
19 weight but not exceeding 80,000 pounds, except as provided in
20 Section 15-111.1, is allowed access as follows:

21 (1) From a Class I highway onto any street or highway
22 for a distance of one highway mile for the purpose of
23 loading, unloading, food, fuel, repairs, and rest,
24 provided there is no sign prohibiting that access.

25 (2) From a Class I, II, or III highway onto any State
26 highway or any local designated highway for a distance of 5
27 highway miles for the purpose of loading, unloading, food,
28 fuel, repairs, and rest.

29 Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act
30 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the
31 designation of highways under this subsection.

32 (g) No person shall operate a vehicle or combination of
33 vehicles over a bridge or other elevated structure constituting
34 part of a highway with a gross weight that is greater than the
35 maximum weight permitted by the Department, when the structure
36 is sign posted as provided in this Section.

1 (h) The Department upon request from any local authority
2 shall, or upon its own initiative may, conduct an investigation
3 of any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part
4 of a highway, and if it finds that the structure cannot with
5 safety to itself withstand the weight of vehicles otherwise
6 permissible under this Code the Department shall determine and
7 declare the maximum weight of vehicles that the structures can
8 withstand, and shall cause or permit suitable signs stating
9 maximum weight to be erected and maintained before each end of
10 the structure. No person shall operate a vehicle or combination
11 of vehicles over any structure with a gross weight that is
12 greater than the posted maximum weight.

13 (i) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation
14 of subsections (g) or (h) of this Section, proof of the
15 determination of the maximum allowable weight by the Department
16 and the existence of the signs, constitutes conclusive evidence
17 of the maximum weight that can be maintained with safety to the
18 bridge or structure.

19 (Source: P.A. 92-417, eff. 1-1-02; 93-177, eff. 7-11-03;
20 93-186, eff. 1-1-04; 93-1023, eff. 8-25-04.)

21 (625 ILCS 5/15-111.1 new)

22 Sec. 15-111.1. Higher load limits on highways specified by
23 the Department or local authorities. Except as provided in
24 subsections (g) and (h) of Section 15-111, the Department and
25 local authorities may, within their respective jurisdictions,
26 specify certain roadways upon which loads of a gross weight not
27 exceeding 120,000 pounds are allowed without a special permit.

28 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
29 becoming law.