



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

**HB2492**

by Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/15-101  
625 ILCS 5/15-111

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-101  
from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-111

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that the Code Chapter governing size, weight, and load of vehicles does not apply to fire apparatus or authorized emergency vehicles owned or operated by any governmental body or not-for-profit fire protection service organization or agency. Removes a provision providing that an emergency vehicle may not exceed 86,000 pounds gross weight or other listed weights.

LRB100 05993 AXK 16022 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 Sections 15-101 and 15-111 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/15-101) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-101)

7 Sec. 15-101. Scope and effect of Chapter 15.

8 (a) It is unlawful for any person to drive or move on, upon  
9 or across or for the owner to cause or knowingly permit to be  
10 driven or moved on, upon or across any highway any vehicle or  
11 vehicles of a size and weight exceeding the limitations stated  
12 in this Chapter or otherwise in violation of this Chapter, and  
13 the maximum size and weight of vehicles herein specified shall  
14 be lawful throughout this State, and local authorities shall  
15 have no power or authority to alter such limitations except as  
16 express authority may be granted in this Chapter.

17 (b) The provisions of this Chapter governing size, weight,  
18 and load do not apply to fire apparatus, authorized emergency  
19 vehicles, or equipment for snow and ice removal operations  
20 owned or operated by any governmental body or not-for-profit  
21 fire protection service organization or agency, or to  
22 implements of husbandry, as defined in Chapter 1 of this Code,  
23 temporarily operated or towed in a combination upon a highway

1 provided such combination does not consist of more than 3  
2 vehicles or, in the case of hauling fresh, perishable fruits or  
3 vegetables from farm to the point of first processing, not more  
4 than 3 wagons being towed by an implement of husbandry, or to a  
5 vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued  
6 hereunder. ~~The provisions of this Chapter governing size and~~  
7 ~~load do not apply to fire apparatus.~~

8 (c) The provisions of this Chapter governing size, weight,  
9 and load do not apply to any snow and ice removal equipment  
10 that is no more than 12 feet in width, if the equipment  
11 displays flags at least 18 inches square mounted on the  
12 driver's side of the snow plow.

13 These vehicles must be equipped with an illuminated  
14 rotating, oscillating, or flashing amber light or lights, or a  
15 flashing amber strobe light or lights, mounted on the top of  
16 the cab and of sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet  
17 in normal sunlight. If the load on the transport vehicle blocks  
18 the visibility of the amber lighting from the rear of the  
19 vehicle, the vehicle must also be equipped with an illuminated  
20 rotating, oscillating, or flashing amber light or lights, or a  
21 flashing amber strobe light or lights, mounted on the rear of  
22 the load and of sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet  
23 in normal sunlight.

24 (Source: P.A. 99-717, eff. 8-5-16.)

25 (625 ILCS 5/15-111) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-111)

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

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

16           The above formula when expressed in tabular form results in  
17 allowable loads as follows:

18	Distance measured				
19	to the nearest				
20	foot between the				
21	extremes of any		Maximum weight in pounds		
22	group of 2 or		of any group of		
23	more consecutive		2 or more consecutive axles		
24	axles				
25	feet	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles 6 axles

1	4	34,000				
2	5	34,000				
3	6	34,000				
4	7	34,000				
5	8	38,000*	42,000			
6	9	39,000	42,500			
7	10	40,000	43,500			
8	11		44,000			
9	12		45,000	50,000		
10	13		45,500	50,500		
11	14		46,500	51,500		
12	15		47,000	52,000		
13	16		48,000	52,500	58,000	
14	17		48,500	53,500	58,500	
15	18		49,500	54,000	59,000	
16	19		50,000	54,500	60,000	
17	20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
18	21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
19	22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
20	23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
21	24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
22	25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
23	26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500
24	27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
25	28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
26	29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500

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

1                   56                                   79,500

2                   57                                   80,000

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

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

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

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

22          The following are exceptions to the above formula:

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

25               (2) Vehicles for which the Department of  
26               Transportation and local authorities issue overweight

1 permits under authority of Section 15-301 of this Code.  
2 These vehicles are not subject to the bridge formula.

3 (3) Cities having a population of more than 50,000 may  
4 permit by ordinance axle loads on 2-axle motor vehicles 33  
5 1/2% above those provided for herein, but the increase  
6 shall not become effective until the city has officially  
7 notified the Department of the passage of the ordinance and  
8 shall not apply to those vehicles when outside of the  
9 limits of the city, nor shall the gross weight of any  
10 2-axle motor vehicle operating over any street of the city  
11 exceed 40,000 pounds.

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

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



1 structures constituting a part of a highway.

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

7 (6) A truck, not in combination and used exclusively  
8 for the collection of rendering materials, may, when laden,  
9 transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of the  
10 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, the  
11 following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle;  
12 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle.

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

23 (7.5) A 3-axle rear discharge truck mixer registered as  
24 a Special Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively for the mixing  
25 and transportation of concrete in the plastic state, may,  
26 when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except when on

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

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

19 A 3-axle combination sewer cleaning jetting vacuum  
20 truck registered as a Special Hauling Vehicle, used  
21 exclusively for the transportation of non-hazardous solid  
22 waste, manufactured before or in the model year of 2014,  
23 first registered in Illinois before January 1, 2015, may,  
24 when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except when on  
25 part of the National System of Interstate and Defense  
26 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a

1 single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle; 54,000 pounds  
2 gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle. This vehicle is not  
3 subject to the bridge formula.

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

20 (10) Combinations of vehicles, registered as Special  
21 Hauling Vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured  
22 prior to or in the model year of 2024, and registered in  
23 Illinois prior to January 1, 2025, having 5 axles with a  
24 distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles, may not  
25 exceed the following maximum weights: 20,000 pounds on a  
26 single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle; and 72,000

1 pounds gross weight. This combination of vehicles is not  
2 subject to the bridge formula. For all those combinations  
3 of vehicles that include a semitrailer manufactured after  
4 the effective date of P.A. 92-0417, the overall distance  
5 between the first and last axles of the 2 sets of tandems  
6 must be 18 feet 6 inches or more. Any combination of  
7 vehicles that has had its cargo container replaced in its  
8 entirety after December 31, 2024 may not exceed the weights  
9 allowed by the bridge formula.

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

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

23 (i) is specifically designed as a tow truck having  
24 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000 pounds  
25 and is equipped with air brakes, provided that air  
26 brakes are required only if the towing vehicle is

1 towing a vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer  
2 combination that is equipped with air brakes;

3 (ii) is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
4 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500 feet  
5 in all directions;

6 (iii) is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
7 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
8 of vehicles; and

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

18 (12.5) The vehicle weight limitations in this Section  
19 do not apply to a covered heavy duty tow and recovery  
20 vehicle. The covered heavy duty tow and recovery vehicle  
21 license plate must cover the operating empty weight of the  
22 covered heavy duty tow and recovery vehicle only.

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

26 (i) a truck not in combination, equipped with a

1 cargo tank, used exclusively for the transportation of  
2 propane or liquefied petroleum gas may, when laden,  
3 transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of  
4 the National System of Interstate and Defense  
5 Highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds  
6 on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle;  
7 40,000 pounds gross weight on a 2-axle vehicle; 54,000  
8 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle; and

9 (ii) a truck when in combination with a trailer  
10 equipped with a cargo tank used exclusively for the  
11 transportation of propane or liquefied petroleum gas  
12 may, when laden, transmit upon the road surface, except  
13 when on part of the National System of Interstate and  
14 Defense Highways, the following maximum weights:  
15 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a  
16 tandem axle; 90,000 pounds gross weight on a 5-axle or  
17 6-axle vehicle.

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

20 (14) A vehicle or combination of vehicles that uses  
21 natural gas or propane gas as a motor fuel may exceed the  
22 above weight limitations by up to 2,000 pounds, the total  
23 allowance is calculated by an amount that is equal to the  
24 difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable  
25 to the natural gas or propane gas tank and fueling system  
26 carried by the vehicle, and the weight of a comparable

1 diesel tank and fueling system. This paragraph (14) shall  
2 not allow a vehicle to exceed any posted weight limit on a  
3 highway or structure.

4 (15) (Blank). ~~An emergency vehicle that is a vehicle~~  
5 ~~designed to be used under emergency conditions to transport~~  
6 ~~personnel and equipment, and used to support the~~  
7 ~~suppression of fires and mitigation of other hazardous~~  
8 ~~situations, may not exceed 86,000 pounds gross weight, or~~  
9 ~~any of the following weight allowances:~~

- 10 ~~(i) 24,000 pounds on a single steering axle;~~  
11 ~~(ii) 33,500 pounds on a single drive axle;~~  
12 ~~(iii) 62,000 pounds on a tandem axle; or~~  
13 ~~(iv) 52,000 pounds on a tandem rear drive steer~~  
14 ~~axle.~~

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

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; 99-717, eff.  
9 8-5-16.)