

# SB1948



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1948

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/15-111

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

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that a vehicle or combination of vehicles operated by an engine fueled wholly or partially by an electric battery or hydrogen fuel cell electric fueling system may exceed the posted weight limits by up to 2,000 pounds.

LRB104 11990 LNS 22084 b

A BILL FOR

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

22 The above formula when expressed in tabular form results  
23 in 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	34,000*	34,000			
14	Between 8					
15	and 9	38,000	42,000			
16	9	39,000	42,500			
17	10	40,000	43,500			
18	11		44,000			
19	12		45,000	50,000		
20	13		45,500	50,500		
21	14		46,500	51,500		
22	15		47,000	52,000		
23	16		48,000	52,500	58,000	
24	17		48,500	53,500	58,500	
25	18		49,500	54,000	59,000	

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

1	45	72,000	76,000
2	46	72,500	76,500
3	47	73,500	77,500
4	48	74,000	78,000
5	49	74,500	78,500
6	50	75,500	79,000
7	51	76,000	80,000
8	52	76,500	
9	53	77,500	
10	54	78,000	
11	55	78,500	
12	56	79,500	
13	57	80,000	

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

18 \*\*Two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry 34,000 pounds  
19 each if the overall distance between the first and last axles  
20 of these tandems is 36 feet or more.

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

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

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

10           The following are exceptions to the above formula:

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

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

18           (3) Cities having a population of more than 50,000 may  
19 permit by ordinance axle loads on 2-axle motor vehicles 33  
20 1/2% above those provided for herein, but the increase  
21 shall not become effective until the city has officially  
22 notified the Department of the passage of the ordinance  
23 and shall not apply to those vehicles when outside of the  
24 limits of the city, nor shall the gross weight of any  
25 2-axle motor vehicle operating over any street of the city  
26 exceed 40,000 pounds.

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

5           (4.5) A 3-axle or 4-axle vehicle (including when  
6           laden) operated or hired by a municipality within Cook,  
7           Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage, or Will county being operated  
8           for the purpose of performing emergency sewer repair that  
9           would be subject to a weight limitation less than 66,000  
10          pounds under the formula in this subsection (a) shall have  
11          a weight limitation of 66,000 pounds or the vehicle's  
12          gross vehicle weight rating, whichever is less. This  
13          paragraph (4.5) does not apply to vehicles being operated  
14          on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways,  
15          or to vehicles being operated on bridges or other elevated  
16          structures constituting a part of a highway.

17          (5) 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  
20          of tandem axles is 36 feet or more, notwithstanding the  
21          lower limit resulting from the application of the above  
22          formula.

23          (6) A truck, not in combination and used exclusively  
24          for the collection of rendering materials, may, when  
25          laden, transmit upon the road surface, except when on part  
26          of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways,

1 the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a single  
2 axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle.

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

13 (7.5) A 3-axle rear discharge truck mixer registered  
14 as a Special Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively for the  
15 mixing and transportation of concrete in the plastic  
16 state, may, when laden, transmit upon the road surface,  
17 except when on part of the National System of Interstate  
18 and Defense Highways, the following maximum weights:  
19 22,000 pounds on single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem  
20 axle; 54,000 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle. This  
21 vehicle is not subject to the bridge formula.

22 (8) Except as provided in paragraph (7.5) of this  
23 subsection (a), tandem axles on a 3-axle truck registered  
24 as a Special Hauling Vehicle, manufactured prior to or in  
25 the model year of 2024 and first registered in Illinois  
26 prior to January 1, 2025, with a distance greater than 72



1 inches but not more than 96 inches between any series of 2  
2 axles, is allowed a combined weight on the series not to  
3 exceed 36,000 pounds and neither axle of the series may  
4 exceed 20,000 pounds. Any vehicle of this type  
5 manufactured after the model year of 2024 or first  
6 registered in Illinois after December 31, 2024 may not  
7 exceed a combined weight of 34,000 pounds through the  
8 series of 2 axles and neither axle of the series may exceed  
9 20,000 pounds.

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

21 (9) A 4-axle truck mixer registered as a Special  
22 Hauling Vehicle, used exclusively for the mixing and  
23 transportation of concrete in the plastic state, and not  
24 operated on a highway that is part of the National System  
25 of Interstate Highways, is allowed the following maximum  
26 weights: 20,000 pounds on any single axle; 36,000 pounds

1 on a series of axles greater than 72 inches but not more  
2 than 96 inches; and 34,000 pounds on any series of 2 axles  
3 greater than 40 inches but not more than 72 inches. The  
4 gross weight of this vehicle may not exceed the weights  
5 allowed by the bridge formula for 4 axles. The bridge  
6 formula does not apply to any series of 3 axles while the  
7 vehicle is transporting concrete in the plastic state, but  
8 no axle or tandem axle of the series may exceed the maximum  
9 weight permitted under this paragraph (9) of subsection  
10 (a).

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

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

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

14           (i) is specifically designed as a tow truck having  
15 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000  
16 pounds and is equipped with air brakes, provided that  
17 air brakes are required only if the towing vehicle is  
18 towing a vehicle, semitrailer, or tractor-trailer  
19 combination that is equipped with air brakes;

20           (ii) is equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
21 oscillating amber lights, visible for at least 500  
22 feet in all directions;

23           (iii) is capable of utilizing the lighting and  
24 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination  
25 of vehicles; and

26           (iv) does not engage in a tow exceeding 20 miles

1 from the initial point of wreck or disablement. Any  
2 additional movement of the vehicles may occur only  
3 upon issuance of authorization for that movement under  
4 the provisions of Sections 15-301 through 15-318 of  
5 this Code. The towing vehicle, however, may tow any  
6 disabled vehicle to a point where repairs are actually  
7 to occur. This movement shall be valid only on State  
8 routes. The tower must abide by posted bridge weight  
9 limits.

10 (12.5) The vehicle weight limitations in this Section  
11 do not apply to a covered heavy duty tow and recovery  
12 vehicle. The covered heavy duty tow and recovery vehicle  
13 license plate must cover the operating empty weight of the  
14 covered heavy duty tow and recovery vehicle only.

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,  
5 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  
8 on a tandem axle; 90,000 pounds gross weight on a  
9 5-axle or 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 either natural gas or propane gas as a motor fuel or is  
14 operated by an engine fueled wholly or partially by an  
15 electric battery or hydrogen fuel cell electric fueling  
16 system may exceed the above weight limitations by up to  
17 2,000 pounds, ~~the total allowance is calculated by an~~  
18 ~~amount that is equal to the difference between the weight~~  
19 ~~of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas or propane~~  
20 ~~gas tank and fueling system carried by the vehicle, and~~  
21 ~~the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.~~

22 This paragraph (14) shall not allow a vehicle to exceed  
23 any posted weight limit on a highway or structure.

24 (15) An emergency vehicle or fire apparatus that is a  
25 vehicle designed to be used under emergency conditions to  
26 transport personnel and equipment, and used to support the

1 suppression of fires and mitigation of other hazardous  
2 situations on a Class I highway, may not exceed 86,000  
3 pounds gross weight, or any of the following weight  
4 allowances:

- 5 (i) 24,000 pounds on a single steering axle;
- 6 (ii) 33,500 pounds on a single drive axle;
- 7 (iii) 62,000 pounds on a tandem axle; or
- 8 (iv) 52,000 pounds on a tandem rear drive steer  
9 axle.

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

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

1 gross vehicle weight, including any load carried on the bed of  
2 the roll-back carrier.

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

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

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

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

25 (d) No vehicle or combination of vehicles equipped with  
26 other than pneumatic tires may be operated, unladen or with

1 load, upon the highways of this State when the gross weight on  
2 the road surface through any wheel exceeds 800 pounds per inch  
3 width of tire tread or when the gross weight on the road  
4 surface through any axle exceeds 16,000 pounds.

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

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



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

3 (Source: P.A. 102-124, eff. 7-23-21.)