
By: **Delegate Edwards**
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Forest Products - Axle Load Limit Tolerance**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the axle load limit tolerance for certain vehicles during
4 certain times when transporting forest products; and generally relating to axle
5 load limit tolerances for forest products.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Transportation
8 Section 24-109
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Transportation**

14 24-109.

15 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (2) "Single axle weight" means the total weight transmitted by all wheels
17 whose centers may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40
18 inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

19 (3) "Tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road
20 by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel
21 vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart
22 extending across the full width of the vehicle.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the overall gross weight
24 on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles may not exceed an amount produced by
25 application of the following formula:

26 (LN)
27 $W = 500 (\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36)$
28 ($N-1$)

1 where "W" = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the
 2 nearest 500 pounds, "L" = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical
 3 centerlines of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" =
 4 number of axles in group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of
 5 tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall
 6 distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36
 7 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand
 8 (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or statutory tolerances.

9 (c) The following table indicates the permissible overall gross weights based
 10 upon the above formula:

11 Distance in feet 12 between the 13 extremes of any 14 group of 2 or 15 more consecutive	16 axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
17 4	34,000						
18 5	34,000						
19 6	34,000						
20 7	34,000						
21 8	34,000		34,000				
22 and 23 less							
24 More							
25 than	38,000		42,000				
8							
26 9	39,000		42,500				
27 10	40,000		43,500				
28 11		44,000					
29 12		45,000	50,000				
30 13		45,500	50,500				
31 14		46,500	51,500				
32 15		47,000	52,000				
33 16		48,000	52,500	58,000			
34 17		48,500	53,500	58,500			
35 18		49,500	54,000	59,000			
36 19		50,000	54,500	60,000			
37 20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000		
38 21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500		

HOUSE BILL 371

1 22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
2 23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
3 24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
4 25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
5 26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
6 27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
7 28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
8 29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
9 30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
10 31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
11 32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
12 33		64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
13 34		64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
14 35		65,500	70,000	75,000	
15 36	Exception: See	(66,000)	70,500	75,500	
16	subsection (b),				
17 37	this section	(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		
27 47		73,500	77,500		
28 48		74,000	78,000		
29 49		74,500	78,500		
30 50		75,500	79,000		
31 51		76,000	80,000		
32 52		76,500			
33 53		77,500			
34 54		78,000			
35 55		78,500			
36 56		79,500			
37 57		80,000			

1 (d) The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed
2 the following limits:

3 Number of	Gross
4 axles	weight
5	(in pounds)
6 Three or less	55,000
7 Four	66,000
8 Five as provided for	
9 in § 13-916 or § 13-923 of	
10 this article	79,000

11 (e) A trailer with metal tires and a gross weight of more than 6,000 pounds
12 may not be moved on a highway.

13 (f) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a
14 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than
15 45 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined
16 under § 10-601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other
17 off-highway locations, is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent from
18 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, except during harvest time when [a] AN AXLE
19 LOAD LIMIT tolerance of 15 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section is
20 permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

- 21 (i) Wheat, for the period from June 1 to August 15;
- 22 (ii) Corn, for the period from July 1 to December 1;
- 23 (iii) Soybeans, for the period from September 1 to December 31; and
- 24 (iv) Vegetable crops, for the period from June 1 to October 31.

25 (2) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at
26 least 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet
27 carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway
28 locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent from subsections (b)
29 and (c) of this section, EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30
30 WHEN AN AXLE LOAD LIMIT TOLERANCE OF 15 PERCENT FROM SUBSECTIONS (B)
31 AND (C) OF THIS SECTION IS PERMITTED.

32 (ii) Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a
33 semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in
34 forests or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance
35 of 5 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section, EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD
36 FROM JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30 WHEN AN AXLE LOAD LIMIT TOLERANCE OF 15
37 PERCENT FROM SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION IS PERMITTED.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2001.