

Chapter 127

(Senate Bill 86)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Size, Weight, and Axle Load Limits

FOR the purpose of exempting certain vehicles engaged in emergency operations or in snow or ice removal from certain provisions of law governing size, weight, and axle load limits; repealing a certain provision of law that authorizes the State Highway Administration to issue limited duration special vehicle permits in exceptional cases of vehicles exceeding size or weight limits; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to vehicle size, weight, and axle load limits.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 24–101 and 24–113
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

24–101.

(a) The provisions of this subtitle governing size, weight, and load do not apply to:

- (1) Emergency vehicles;
- (2) Farm equipment temporarily moved on a highway; [or]

(3) [A vehicle driven under the terms of a special permit issued under this subtitle] **VEHICLES OWNED BY OR UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE WHEN ENGAGED IN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OR IN SNOW OR ICE REMOVAL CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW; OR**

(4) ANY OTHER VEHICLE DRIVEN UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(b) A person may not drive on any publicly maintained highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross weight that exceeds:

(1) The maximum registered weight limit for which the vehicle or combination is registered under § 24–110 of this subtitle; or

(2) Any other weight limit established under the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(c) A person may not permit to be driven on any publicly maintained highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross weight that exceeds:

(1) The maximum registered weight limit for which the vehicle or combination is registered under § 24–110 of this subtitle; or

(2) Any other weight limit established under the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(d) A violation of the maximum weight provisions of this subtitle is not a moving violation for purposes of Title 16, Subtitle 4 of this article.

24–113.

(a) The purpose of this section is to:

(1) Facilitate the obtaining of permits;

(2) Eliminate undue hardships to political subdivisions, contractors, and the movers of heavy or large equipment; and

(3) Make possible, when circumstances justify, the issuing of permits under which more than one move can be made.

(b) The State Highway Administration and the Department of State Police jointly may formulate rules and regulations that:

(1) Implement the statutes on the movement of oversize and overweight vehicles; and

(2) Establish fees and charges under these statutes.

(c) (1) Before a rule or regulation may be adopted or amended under this section, the State Highway Administration shall hold a public hearing on it.

(2) After the hearing, the State Highway Administration may adopt the proposed rule, regulation, or amendment or any appropriate modification to it.

[(d) In exceptional cases, special vehicle permits may be issued for vehicles exceeding maximum size and weight limitations; however, it is not intended to allow regular and continuous movement by a vehicle operating with a permit issued under this subsection.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2014.