

# SENATE BILL 72

R6

4lr0011

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Departmental – Transportation)**

Requested: September 30, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Motor Vehicles – Weight and Axle Load Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that certain provisions of law governing motor vehicle  
4 weight limits and single axle load limits do not apply to motor homes or certain  
5 buses; repealing a provision of law establishing a certain enhanced single axle  
6 load limit for certain buses; prohibiting a motor home from exceeding a certain  
7 rated load capacity for any tire on the motor home; increasing to a certain  
8 amount the weight limit tolerance for the use of certain equipment that  
9 promotes fuel economy and reduced emissions; making conforming changes; and  
10 generally relating to motor vehicle weight and axle load limits.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Transportation  
13 Section 24–108, 24–109, and 24–113.2(c)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

### 18 **Article – Transportation**

19 24–108.

20 (a) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection and except as otherwise  
21 provided in this section, the gross weight imposed on the ground surface by the wheels  
22 of an axle of a vehicle may not exceed the following limits:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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1	Single Axle Weight	
2	Registered Gross	Gross
3	Weight of Vehicle	Maximum
4	(in Pounds)	Weight
5		(in Pounds)
6	Single axle	73,000 or less
7	Single axle	More than 73,000
		22,400
		20,000

8           (2)     Except for vehicles operated under a permit issued under § 24–112  
9 of this subtitle, the gross weight imposed on the ground surface by the wheels of a  
10 front axle of a vehicle combination may not exceed either the lesser of:

11                   (i)     The sum of the rated load capacities for each tire on the  
12 axle, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; or

13                   (ii)    The sum of the rated load capacities indicated by the  
14 manufacturer as to each tire on the axle with which the vehicle is currently equipped.

15           (3)     (i)     Except as provided in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this  
16 paragraph, any vehicle with a gross maximum weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may  
17 travel only on State highways, except while making a delivery or pickup, and then  
18 only when traveling by the shortest available legal route to or from the State highway  
19 for the purpose of making such delivery or pickup. In Baltimore City, the shortest  
20 available legal route shall be only on designated truck routes.

21                   (ii)    If approved by the local governing body and the State  
22 Highway Administration, in Dorchester County, a vehicle with a gross maximum  
23 weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may use the Linkwood Road when traveling  
24 between East New Market and Linkwood.

25                   (iii)   1.     The County Commissioners of Garrett County may,  
26 by ordinance, establish the authorized gross maximum weight of a vehicle that:

27                           A.     Has at least 6 axles;

28                           B.     Is a truck tractor and semitrailer combination; and

29                           C.     Is using any part of Table Rock Road and Wilson Run  
30 Road in Garrett County that is owned and maintained by the county.

31                           2.     The gross maximum weight established under this  
32 subparagraph may not exceed 87,000 pounds.

33           (b)     Except on interstate highways, a vehicle carrying farm products as  
34 defined under § 10–601 of the Agriculture Article or forest products that have been

1 loaded in fields or other off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance  
2 of 10 percent.

3 (c) (1) In Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County, garbage and  
4 refuse trucks that make collections on a fixed route and are owned by or doing  
5 business with any governmental entity in the respective county are permitted rear  
6 axle load limit tolerances of 10 percent if:

7 (i) The overweight is due to bad weather; and

8 (ii) The truck does not exceed its registered gross weight limit.

9 (2) A privately owned truck is permitted this tolerance only while  
10 actually engaged in the business of the governmental entity.

11 (d) [Any] **A MOTOR HOME, AN over-the-road bus, or any vehicle that is**  
12 **regularly and exclusively used as an intrastate public agency transit passenger bus**  
13 **may not exceed:**

14 (1) A single axle weight limit of 24,000 pounds; or

15 (2) The tire manufacturer's rated load capacity for any tire on the  
16 vehicle.

17 24-109.

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

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

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

26 (b) **IN THIS SECTION, A MOTOR HOME, AN OVER-THE-ROAD BUS, OR**  
27 **ANY VEHICLE THAT IS REGULARLY AND EXCLUSIVELY USED AS AN INTRASTATE**  
28 **PUBLIC AGENCY PASSENGER BUS:**

29 (1) **IS EXEMPT FROM AXLE WEIGHTS; AND**

30 (2) **SHALL COMPLY WITH THE VEHICLE AND COMBINATION OF**  
31 **VEHICLES WEIGHT LIMITS IN SUBSECTIONS (D) AND (E) OF THIS SECTION.**



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

43 [(d)] (E) The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not  
 44 exceed the following limits:

	Number of axles	Gross weight (in pounds)
1		
2		
3		
4	Three or less	55,000
5	Four	66,000
6	Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of	
7	this article	80,000

8           **[(e)] (F)**     A trailer with metal tires and a gross weight of more than 6,000  
9 pounds may not be moved on a highway.

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

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

23                           (2)    (i)     Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at  
24 least 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet  
25 carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off–highway  
26 locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent from subsections **[(b)**  
27 **and] (c) AND (D)** of this section, except for the period from June 1 through September  
28 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of 15 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND**  
29 **(D)** of this section is permitted.

30   (ii)    Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles  
31 with a semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been  
32 loaded in forests or other similar off–highway locations is permitted an axle load limit  
33 tolerance of 5 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section, except for  
34 the period from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of 15  
35 percent from subsections **[(b) and] (c) AND (D)** of this section is permitted.

36                           **[(g)] (H)**     (1)    Any vehicle that uses an auxiliary power unit or an  
37 idle–reduction technology unit in order to promote reduction of fuel use and emissions

1 from engine idling shall be allowed up to an additional [400] **550** pounds total in  
2 gross, axle, tandem, or bridge formula weight limits.

3 (2) To be eligible for the additional weight limit allowed under  
4 paragraph (1) of this subsection, the vehicle operator must:

5 (i) Obtain and make available to law enforcement officers  
6 written certification of the weight of the auxiliary power unit or idle-reduction  
7 technology unit; and

8 (ii) By demonstration or certification, prove that the  
9 idle-reduction technology unit is fully functional at all times.

10 (3) The additional weight limit allowed under paragraph (1) of this  
11 subsection may not exceed the certified weight of the auxiliary power unit or  
12 idle-reduction technology unit.

13 24-113.2.

14 (c) A combination of vehicles operating under the authority of an exceptional  
15 hauling permit issued under subsection (b) of this section shall:

16 (1) Comply with the following weight limits:

17 (i) A maximum of 20,000 pounds gross weight on a single axle;

18 (ii) For any consecutive axle configuration of two or more axles  
19 on individual vehicles in the combination, the maximum gross weight specified in §  
20 [24-109(c)] **24-109(D)** of this subtitle; and

21 (iii) A maximum of 87,000 pounds gross combination weight;

22 (2) Twice each year, submit to and pass a North American Standard  
23 Driver/Vehicle Level 1 inspection; and

24 (3) Be allowed a load limit tolerance of only 1,000 pounds for gross  
25 combination weight and 15% for axle weights.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2014.