

HOUSE BILL 646

R6

8lr0440

By: **Delegates Reilly, Adams, Afzali, Anderton, Arentz, Beitzel, Buckel, Carozza, Cassilly, Clark, Folden, Ghrist, Glass, Hornberger, S. Howard, Impallaria, Jacobs, Krebs, Malone, McComas, McDonough, McKay, Morgan, Otto, Parrott, Rey, Rose, Saab, Sample-Hughes, Shoemaker, Sophocleus, Szeliga, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

1

A BILL ENTITLED

2 AN ACT concerning

3 **Motor Vehicles – Gross Vehicle Weight – Agricultural Products**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain tolerance from the gross vehicle weight limits for
5 certain vehicles used in certain agricultural activities during harvest time under
6 certain circumstances; limiting the distance within which a certain vehicle operating
7 under a certain tolerance from a certain gross vehicle weight limit may travel;
8 making stylistic changes; and generally relating to gross vehicle weight.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 24–109
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

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 wheels
20 whose centers may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches
21 apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

5 (b) An over-the-road bus or any vehicle that is regularly and exclusively used as
 6 an intrastate public agency passenger bus:

7 (1) Is exempt from tandem axle weight limits provided in this section; but

8 (2) Shall comply with the vehicle and combination of vehicles weight limits
 9 provided in this section that are not tandem axle weight limits.

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

$$13 \quad W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N - 1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

16 where "W" = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest
 17 500 pounds, "L" = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical centerlines
 18 of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" = number of axles in
 19 group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross
 20 load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles
 21 of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross
 22 weight may not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or
 23 statutory tolerances.

24 (d) The following table indicates the permissible overall gross weights based upon
 25 the above formula:

26 Distance in						
27 feet between						
28 the extremes of						
29 any group of 2						
30 or more						
31 consecutive						
32 axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
33 4	34,000					
34 5	34,000					
35 6	34,000					
36 7	34,000					
37 8						
38 and less	34,000	34,000				

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

HOUSE BILL 646

1	49	74,500	78,500
2	50	75,500	79,000
3	51	76,000	80,000
4	52	76,500	
5	53	77,500	
6	54	78,000	
7	55	78,500	
8	56	79,500	
9	57	80,000	

10 (e) The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed the
11 following limits:

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Number of					Gross
		axles					weight
							(in pounds)
15	Three or less						55,000
16	Four						66,000
17	Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of this						
18	article						80,000

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

21 (g) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a
22 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than 45
23 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined under §
24 10–601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other off-highway locations,
25 is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[5 percent]~~ **5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of
26 this section, except during harvest time when an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[15 percent]~~
27 **15% OR, SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A GROSS VEHICLE**
28 **WEIGHT TOLERANCE OF 5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted for a
29 vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

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

34 (2) **THE HARVEST TIME GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT TOLERANCE**
35 **OF 5% UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A VEHICLE**
36 **TRAVELING WITHIN 100 MILES OF THE FIELD OR OTHER OFF-HIGHWAY LOCATION**
37 **WHERE THE VEHICLE WAS LOADED.**

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

7 (ii) Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a
8 semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests
9 or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[5~~
10 ~~percent]~~ **5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section, except for the period from June 1
11 through September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[15 percent]~~ **15%** from
12 subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted.

13 (h) (1) Any vehicle that uses an auxiliary power unit or an idle-reduction
14 technology unit in order to promote reduction of fuel use and emissions from engine idling
15 shall be allowed up to an additional 550 pounds total in gross, axle, tandem, or bridge
16 formula weight limits.

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

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

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

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

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
27 1, 2018.