

SENATE BILL 1069

R6

8lr3823
CF HB 646

By: **Senator Mathias**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2018

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 24–109

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 24–109.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

$$9 \quad W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

12 where "W" = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest
13 500 pounds, "L" = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical centerlines
14 of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" = number of axles in
15 group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross
16 load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles
17 of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross
18 weight may not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or
19 statutory tolerances.

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

22 Distance in						
23 feet between						
24 the extremes of						
25 any group of 2						
26 or more						
27 consecutive						
28 axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
29 4	34,000					
30 5	34,000					
31 6	34,000					
32 7	34,000					
33 8						
34 and less	34,000	34,000				
35 More than						
36 8	38,000	42,000				
37 9	39,000	42,500				
38 10	40,000	43,500				

SENATE BILL 1069

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

SENATE BILL 1069

1	53	77,500
2	54	78,000
3	55	78,500
4	56	79,500
5	57	80,000

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

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Number of					Gross
		axles					weight
							(in pounds)
11	Three or less						55,000
12	Four						66,000
13	Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of this						
14	article						80,000

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

17 (g) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a
18 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than 45
19 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined under §
20 10–601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other off-highway locations,
21 is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[5 percent]~~ **5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of
22 this section, except during harvest time when an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[15 percent]~~
23 **15% OR, SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A GROSS VEHICLE**
24 **WEIGHT TOLERANCE OF 5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted for a
25 vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

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

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

34 (3) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at least
35 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet carrying forest
36 products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway locations is

1 permitted an axle load limit tolerance of [10 percent] **10%** from subsections (c) and (d) of
2 this section, except for the period from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load
3 limit tolerance of [15 percent] **15%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
24 1, 2018.