



Maryland Motor Truck Association

9256 Bendix Road, Suite 203, Columbia, MD 21045
Phone: 410-644-4600 Fax: 410-644-2537



HEARING DATE: February 15, 2024

BILL NO/TITLE: House Bill 652 – Vehicle Laws - Electric Vehicles - Weight Limits

COMMITTEE: House Environment & Transportation

POSITION: Support

Maryland Motor Truck Association offers its support for HB652, which would provide a 2,000 lbs. weight allowance for electric trucks similar to that allowed in federal law to help offset the lost carrying capacity created by the vehicle's additional weight.

Electric trucks weigh more than comparable diesel trucks due to the increased weight of their batteries. Consequently, electric trucks must reduce cargo loads to remain within legal weight limits (e.g., 80,000 lbs. for a five-axle tractor trailer). Reducing load capacity results in more trucks needed to deliver the same amount of freight. According to a December 2022 study by the American Transportation Research Institute, the lost carrying capacity for an electric five-axle tractor trailer is 13,800 lbs. This equates to one additional truck needed for every four deliveries, or roughly a 25% increase in truck traffic to carry the same amount of freight being delivered today.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019, Congress recognized this challenge and increased the federal gross, axle, tandem, and bridge weight limits for electric (and natural gas) vehicles on the Interstate Highway System by 2,000 pounds; however, this does not apply to state roads. HB652 would address this inconsistency.

It should be noted that the passage of HB652 would not prevent the state from posting a maximum weight limit on a specific roadway or bridge based on safety and engineering designs. Trucks would still be required to operate within those posted weight limits regardless of this legislation.

For the reasons noted above, MMTA asks for a favorable report on HB652.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association that has represented the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

For further information, contact: Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-5663