

SB149 - Support - Maryland Motor Truck Association

Uploaded by: Louis Campion

Position: FAV



HEARING DATE: January 21, 2026

BILL NO/TITLE: SB149: Vehicle Laws - Heavy Weight Port Corridor Permits - Regulations

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **Support**

Maryland Motor Truck Association expresses its support for Senate Bill 149, which would provide flexibility to the State Highway Administration and improve the efficiency of permits issued under the Heavy Weight Port Corridor.

In 2019, the General Assembly created the Heavy Weight Port Corridor authorizing overweight vehicles carrying manifested international freight in sealed, seagoing containers to travel on specified routes from the Port of Baltimore. The Port is a critical international gateway that connects the region to global suppliers and markets. The Port plays an integral role delivering economic prosperity through trade while maintaining the nation's supply chains and moving goods to industries and customers. The Port's reputation as a leading port in the United States is leveraged by a dynamic supply chain network that keeps cargo moving to two-thirds of the nation's population and manufacturing bases.

Since its inception, the Heavy Weight Port Corridor has been instrumental in successfully drawing major businesses and customers to the Port of Baltimore. However, when urgent route changes are needed due to road or bridge repairs, closures, or other anticipated or unanticipated restrictions, the current regulatory process for this permit can lead to lengthy delays in the delivery and movement of freight from the Port.

Senate Bill 149 would amend Transportation Article § 24-113.3 by repealing the requirement that the Maryland Department of Transportation promulgate emergency regulations when making changes to the routes designated for travel under the Heavy Weight Port Corridor permit. If enacted, route changes will be efficiently addressed by the State Highway Administration's existing permitting program, which can readily address and respond to changes in roadway conditions and new routes. The ability of the State to address necessary route changes expeditiously will bolster freight movement and economic activity at the Port of Baltimore, with no compromise in safety since routes will be reviewed through the Maryland One permit system.

For the reasons noted above, MMTA urges a favorable report.

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 900 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

LOS-SB 149_Heavy Weight Port Corridor_PAC.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Schmidt

Position: FAV



January 21, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 149 – Vehicle Laws – Heavy Weight Port Corridor Permits – Regulations

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

On behalf of Ports America Chesapeake, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 149 and its provisions to improve the efficiency of permits issued under the Heavy Weight Port Corridor.

The Port of Baltimore is a critical international gateway that connects the region to global suppliers and markets. The Port plays an integral role delivering economic prosperity through trade while maintaining our nation's supply chains and moving goods to industries and customers. The Port's reputation as a leading port in the United States is leveraged by a dynamic supply chain network that keeps cargo moving to two-thirds of the nation's population and manufacturing bases.

In 2019, the General Assembly created the Heavy Weight Port Corridor authorizing overweight vehicles carrying manifested international freight in sealed, seagoing containers to travel on specified routes from the Port of Baltimore's Seagirt Marine Terminal. Since its inception, the Heavy Weight Port Corridor has been instrumental in successfully drawing major businesses and customers to the Port of Baltimore. However, when urgent route changes are needed due to road or bridge repairs, closures, or other anticipated or unanticipated restrictions, the current process for this permit can lead to lengthy delays in the delivery and movement of freight from the Port of Baltimore.

Senate Bill 149 would amend Transportation Article § 24-113.3 by repealing the requirement that the Maryland Department of Transportation promulgate emergency regulations when making changes to the routes designated for travel under the Heavy Weight Port Corridor permit. If enacted, route changes will be efficiently addressed by the State Highway Administration's existing permitting program, which can readily address and respond to changes in roadway conditions and new routes. The ability of the State to address necessary route changes expeditiously will bolster freight movement and economic activity at the Port of Baltimore.

Ports America Chesapeake respectfully requests the Committee consider this information and issue Senate Bill 149 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Mark Schmidt

Mark Schmidt
President
Ports America Chesapeake

SB0149 - LOS - SHA - Heavyweight Port Corridors.pd

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

January 21, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 149 – Vehicle Laws – Heavy Weight Port Corridor Permits – Regulations

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter in support of Senate Bill 149.

SB 149 amends Transportation Article § 24-113.3 by repealing the requirement that MDOT promulgate regulations when making changes to the routes designated for travel under the heavy weight port corridor permit.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) administers the heavy weight port corridor permit, which authorizes overweight vehicles carrying manifested international freight in sealed, seagoing containers to travel on specified routes from the Port of Baltimore’s Seagirt Marine Terminal as designated by the MDOT Secretary. Under current law, SHA must promulgate emergency regulations when route changes for the heavy weight port corridor permit are needed due to road or bridge repairs, closures, or other anticipated or unanticipated restrictions, leading to lengthy delays in the delivery and movement of freight from the Port of Baltimore.

SB 149 removes the requirement for the promulgation of emergency regulations for these urgent and necessary route changes to the heavy weight port corridor permit. If enacted, route changes will be efficiently addressed by SHA’s Maryland One Permit Routing System, which readily addresses and responds to changes in roadway conditions and new routes.

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) works hard to accomplish its mission to stimulate the flow of waterborne commerce through Maryland’s ports. The Port of Baltimore is an economic engine and critical international gateway that connects the region to global suppliers and markets. The ability of the State to address necessary route changes expeditiously and continue to move containerized cargo on existing highway infrastructure will bolster freight movement and economic activity in and around the Port of Baltimore.

While this bill allows SHA the flexibility to make necessary route changes where feasible, it will not override any truck route restrictions or prohibitions.

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Page Two

MDOT respectfully requests the Committee consider this information and issue Senate Bill 149 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

William Pines, P.E.
Administrator
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-545-0400

Jonathan Daniels
Executive Director
Maryland Port Administration
410-385-4401

Matthew Mickler
Director, Office of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090