

# SENATE BILL 870

R7

4lr3328  
CF HB 652

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By: **Senator Kelly**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Electric Vehicles – Weight Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing plug-in electric drive vehicles and certain other electric  
4 vehicles to exceed gross, axle, tandem, and bridge weight limits by a certain amount;  
5 and generally relating to vehicle weight limits.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Transportation  
8 Section 24–109  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Transportation**

14 24–109.

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

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

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

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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] **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION**  
 7 **BUT NOTWITHSTANDING** any other provisions of this title, the overall gross weight on a  
 8 group of 2 or more consecutive axles may not exceed an amount produced by application of  
 9 the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 10 \quad W = 500 \quad \left( \frac{LN}{N - 1} + 12N + 36 \right) \\
 11 \quad \left( \frac{LN}{N - 1} + 12N + 36 \right) \\
 12 \quad \left( \frac{LN}{N - 1} + 12N + 36 \right)
 \end{array}$$

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

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

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

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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			

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	Number of	Gross
9	axles	weight
10		(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% from subsections (c) and (d) of this section,  
22 except during harvest time when an axle load limit tolerance of 15% or, subject to  
23 paragraph (2) of this subsection, a gross vehicle weight tolerance of 5% from subsections (c)  
24 and (d) of this section is permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

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

29 (2) The harvest time gross vehicle weight limit tolerance of 5% under  
30 paragraph (1) of this subsection applies only to a vehicle traveling within 100 miles of the  
31 field or other off–highway location where the vehicle was loaded.

32 (3) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at least  
33 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet carrying forest  
34 products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off–highway locations is  
35 permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10% from subsections (c) and (d) of this section,  
36 except for the period from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance  
37 of 15% from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted.

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

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

11 [(2)] (II) To be eligible for the additional weight limit allowed under  
12 [paragraph (1) of this subsection] **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH**, the vehicle  
13 operator must:

14 [(i)] 1. Obtain and make available to law enforcement officers  
15 written certification of the weight of the auxiliary power unit or idle-reduction technology  
16 unit; and

17 [(ii)] 2. By demonstration or certification, prove that the  
18 idle-reduction technology unit is fully functional at all times.

19 [(3)] (III) The additional weight limit allowed under [paragraph (1)]  
20 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I)** of this [subsection] **PARAGRAPH** may not exceed the certified weight  
21 of the auxiliary power unit or idle-reduction technology unit.

22 **(2) ANY PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE OR OTHER VEHICLE**  
23 **PROPELLED TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT BY AN ELECTRIC MOTOR THAT DRAWS**  
24 **ELECTRICITY FROM A BATTERY SHALL BE ALLOWED UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 2,000**  
25 **POUNDS TOTAL IN GROSS, AXLE, TANDEM, AND BRIDGE FORMULA WEIGHT LIMITS.**

26 (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the gross vehicle weight  
27 of a vehicle for which a permit is issued under § 24-113.3 of this subtitle for traveling along  
28 a designated heavy weight port corridor may not exceed 100,000 pounds.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 October 1, 2024.