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**By: Senator Jimeno**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Combinations - Maximum Length**

3 FOR the purpose of extending the maximum permissible length of a combination of  
4 vehicles with a power unit that is a cargo-carrying vehicle; and generally relating to  
5 the maximum permissible length of certain vehicle combinations.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article - Transportation  
8 Section 24-104.1(b)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Transportation  
13 Section 24-104.1(j)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Transportation**

19 24-104.1.

20 (b) (1) For purposes of this section, the length of a vehicle includes its front and  
21 rear bumpers and any part of its load that extends beyond the vehicle, but is exclusive of  
22 nonload bearing safety and energy conservation devices, such as marker lamps, steps and  
23 handholds for entry and egress, front-mounted refrigeration units, and front-mounted air  
24 compressors.

25 (2) The measurement of a combination of vehicles engaged in the  
26 transportation of automobiles or boats shall not include the overhang of the transported  
27 vehicles or boats or any retractable device on the rear of the combination when in use to  
28 support a transported vehicle.

29 (j) Except as otherwise provided in this section:

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1 (1) In a combination of vehicles with a power unit that is a cargo-carrying  
2 vehicle, the overall length of the combination may not exceed [55] 65 feet;

3 (2) Any other combination of vehicles may not exceed 55 feet; and

4 (3) (i) 1. A truck or truck tractor and semitrailer combination  
5 designed for and engaged exclusively in the transportation of automobiles or boats may  
6 not exceed 65 feet in length;

7 2. A stinger-steered automobile transporter or a saddle-mount  
8 or a full-mount combination may not exceed 75 feet in length; and

9 3. A. A maxi-cube vehicle described in subsection (a)(4)(i)  
10 of this section may not exceed 65 feet in length; and

11 B. A maxi-cube vehicle described in subsection (a)(4)(ii) of this  
12 section may not exceed 60 feet in length;

13 (ii) No other length requirements may be applied to the combinations  
14 of vehicles described in item (i) of this paragraph; and

15 (iii) The combinations of vehicles described in item (i) of this  
16 paragraph may only be operated on any part of the interstate system or other State system  
17 highways that are designated by the Secretary in conjunction with the U.S. Department of  
18 Transportation, or on a highway that is the shortest practical route between a designated  
19 highway and:

20 1. A truck terminal;

21 2. A point of origin/destination for cargo; or

22 3. For a distance not to exceed 1 mile, facilities for food, fuel,  
23 repairs, or rest.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 1997.