

SENATE BILL 798

Unofficial Copy  
R7

1998 Regular Session  
8lr2819  
CF 8lr2818

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By: **Senator Hafer**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 26, 1998

Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Weight Tolerances - Forest Products**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying a certain weight tolerance under the Maryland Vehicle  
4 Law for certain vehicles transporting forest products under certain  
5 circumstances.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Transportation  
8 Section 24-108(c)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Transportation**

14 24-108.

15 (c) (1) Except on interstate highways, a vehicle carrying agricultural  
16 products as defined under § 10-601 of the Agriculture Article or forest products that  
17 have been loaded in fields or other off-highway locations is permitted an axle load  
18 limit tolerance of 10 percent.

19 (2) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a  
20 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long, either registered as a  
21 farm vehicle or carrying agricultural products as defined under § 10-601 of the  
22 Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other off-highway locations, is  
23 permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent from § 24-109(b) and (c) of this  
24 subtitle, except during harvest time when a tolerance of 15 percent from § 24-109(b)  
25 and (c) of this subtitle is permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural  
26 products:

- 1 (i) Wheat, for the period from June 1 to August 15;
- 2 (ii) Corn, for the period from July 1 to December 1; and
- 3 (iii) Soybeans, for the period from September 1 to December 1.

4 (3) (I) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at  
5 least 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet [or  
6 a semitrailer length of 45 feet or less] carrying forest products that have been loaded  
7 in forests or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit  
8 tolerance of [5] 10 percent from § 24-109(b) and (c) of this subtitle.

9 (II) EXCEPT ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS, A COMBINATION OF  
10 VEHICLES WITH A SEMITRAILER LENGTH OF 45 FEET OR LESS CARRYING FOREST  
11 PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN LOADED IN FORESTS OR OTHER SIMILAR  
12 OFF-HIGHWAY LOCATIONS IS PERMITTED AN AXLE LOAD LIMIT TOLERANCE OF 5  
13 PERCENT FROM § 24-109(B) AND (C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 1998.