
By: **Delegates Mitchell, Hutchins, and Linton**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 1999
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Combination Vehicles with Dromedary Box - Length**
3 **Limitations**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum overall length limit of a truck tractor
5 operated in combination with a semitrailer if the truck tractor is equipped with
6 a dromedary box being used for the transportation of certain explosives and
7 munitions intended for use by the U.S. Department of Defense; defining a term;
8 and generally relating to maximum allowable lengths of vehicle combinations.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Transportation
11 Section 24-104.1(a) and (k)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article - Transportation
16 Section 24-104.1(b)(1) and (j)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 24-104.1.

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

24 (2) "Automobiles" means all assembled motor vehicles:

25 (i) Capable of being operated on a highway; and

26 (ii) Authorized under this article to be operated on a highway.

1 (3) "DROMEDARY BOX" MEANS A CARGO-CARRYING CONTAINER
2 MOUNTED ON THE FRAME OF A TRUCK TRACTOR AND LOCATED BEHIND THE CAB.

3 [(3)] (4) "Saddle-mount and full-mount combinations" means a truck
4 tractor or unloaded truck towing 1 or more other truck tractors or unloaded trucks in
5 combination.

6 [(4)] (5) "Maxi-cube vehicle" means a nonarticulating straight truck:

7 (i) In combination with a semitrailer which does not exceed 34 feet,
8 and is designed to be loaded and unloaded through the semitrailer; or

9 (ii) In combination with a trailer that does not exceed 28 feet.

10 [(5)] (6) "Stinger-steered automobile transporter" means a truck tractor
11 and semitrailer combination:

12 (i) Designed for and engaged exclusively in the transportation of
13 automobiles or boats; and

14 (ii) In which the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame behind and
15 below the rear axle of the power unit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 6 1. A truck terminal;
- 7 2. A point of origin/destination for cargo; or
- 8 3. For a distance not to exceed 1 mile, facilities for food, fuel,
9 repairs, or rest.

10 (k) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (h) of this section,
11 nothing shall prevent the operation of a combination of vehicles in which the
12 semitrailer (single) does not exceed 48 1/2 feet in length or a combination of vehicles
13 in which the semitrailer or trailer (double) does not exceed 28 1/2 feet in length for
14 each unit; provided, the combination has been lawfully operated on the highways of
15 this State prior to December 1, 1982.

16 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j)(1) of this section[,
17 nothing]:

18 (I) NOTHING shall prevent a power unit, which was equipped with
19 a dromedary box, deck, or plate and was legally operated in Maryland prior to
20 December 1, 1982, in combination with a semitrailer or trailer from exceeding the
21 overall length limit of 55 feet; AND

22 (II) THE OVERALL LENGTH OF A TRUCK TRACTOR EQUIPPED WITH
23 A DROMEDARY BOX AND OPERATED IN COMBINATION WITH A SEMITRAILER MAY
24 NOT EXCEED 75 FEET WHEN THE DROMEDARY BOX IS BEING USED FOR THE
25 TRANSPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVES AND MUNITIONS CLASSIFIED UNDER 49 C.F.R.
26 PART 173.50 AND INTENDED FOR USE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
27 DEFENSE.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 1999.