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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 23, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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~~ modifying length limitations applicable to a  
6 semitrailer operated in combination with a power unit if the ~~truck tractor power~~  
7 unit is equipped with a dromedary box being used for the transportation of  
8 certain explosives and munitions intended for use by the U.S. Department of  
9 Defense; ~~defining a term~~; and generally relating to maximum allowable lengths  
10 of vehicle combinations.

11 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
12 ~~Article - Transportation~~  
13 ~~Section 24-104.1(a) and (k)~~  
14 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
15 ~~(1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)~~

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17 Article - Transportation  
18 Section 24-104.1(b)(1) ~~and (j)~~  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article - Transportation  
23 Section 24-104.1(j-1)

1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 2 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

5 **Article - Transportation**

6 24-104.1.

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

8 (2) ~~"Automobiles" means all assembled motor vehicles:~~

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

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

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

13 ~~[(3)] (4) "Saddle mount and full mount combinations" means a truck~~  
 14 ~~tractor or unloaded truck towing 1 or more other truck tractors or unloaded trucks in~~  
 15 ~~combination.~~

16 ~~[(4)] (5) "Maxi-cube vehicle" means a nonarticulating straight truck:~~

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

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

20 ~~[(5)] (6) "Stinger-steered automobile transporter" means a truck tractor~~  
 21 ~~and semitrailer combination:~~

22 (i) ~~Designed for and engaged exclusively in the transportation of~~  
 23 ~~automobiles or boats; and~~

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

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

31 (j) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18                                   1.     A truck terminal;

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

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

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

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

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

34                   (II)    THE OVERALL LENGTH OF A TRUCK TRACTOR EQUIPPED WITH  
35 A DROMEDARY BOX AND OPERATED IN COMBINATION WITH A SEMITRAILER MAY  
36 NOT EXCEED 75 FEET WHEN THE DROMEDARY BOX IS BEING USED FOR THE  
37 TRANSPORTATION OF EXPLOSIVES AND MUNITIONS CLASSIFIED UNDER 49 C.F.R.

1 ~~PART 173.50 AND INTENDED FOR USE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF~~  
2 ~~DEFENSE.~~

3 (J-1) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (J) OF THIS  
4 SECTION, WHEN A SEMITRAILER IS BEING OPERATED IN COMBINATION WITH A  
5 POWER UNIT THAT IS EQUIPPED WITH A DROMEDARY BOX BEING USED TO  
6 TRANSPORT EXPLOSIVES AND MUNITIONS CLASSIFIED UNDER 49 C.F.R. PART 173.50  
7 THAT ARE INTENDED FOR USE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,  
8 THE COMBINATION OF VEHICLES IS NOT SUBJECT TO AN OVERALL LENGTH LIMIT,  
9 BUT THE SEMITRAILER MAY NOT EXCEED 48 FEET IN LENGTH.

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