

SENATE BILL 42

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R6

1999 Regular Session
9r0170

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee (Departmental -
Transportation)**

Requested: July 27, 1998

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 1999

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commercial Vehicles - Containerized Cargo Weight Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the permitted gross maximum weight for two
4 consecutive axles on certain vehicles carrying sealed international cargo to or
5 from the Port of Baltimore.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Transportation
8 Section 24-113.1
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 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 24-113.1.

15 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, and subject to
16 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Secretary, by regulation, may determine
17 that a combination of vehicles carrying manifested international freight as the only
18 load of the vehicle in a sealed, seagoing container on a semitrailer is carrying an
19 indivisible load provided that:

20 (1) A vehicle issued a permit under this section may not exceed 22,400
21 pounds gross maximum weight for a single axle, [40,000] 44,000 pounds gross
22 maximum weight for 2 consecutive axles, or 90,000 pounds gross maximum weight;
23 and

24 (2) A vehicle issued a permit under this section may be operated only on:

1 (i) Those parts of the interstate and State systems of highways
2 that are designated by the Secretary in conjunction with the United States
3 Department of Transportation;

4 (ii) Any other highway, authorized by the Secretary, that is the
5 shortest practical route between a highway designated pursuant to subparagraph (i)
6 of this paragraph and:

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

11 (b) (1) The Secretary shall adopt regulations, consistent with the provisions
12 of this section, for the issuance of permits for vehicles described under subsection (a)
13 of this section.

14 (2) The regulations adopted under this subsection may set fees and shall
15 establish maximum axle and gross weight limits, routes, and other necessary criteria.

16 (c) The authority granted under the provisions of this section may not be
17 exercised unless and until the Secretary determines in writing that its exercise:

18 (1) Is required to provide access to or egress from the Port of Baltimore
19 for international freight;

20 (2) Will not cause extraordinary damage to roads and bridges in the
21 State or require extraordinary expense for the maintenance of those roads and
22 bridges;

23 (3) Will not cause undue adverse environmental impact upon or unduly
24 disrupt residential neighborhoods; and

25 (4) Will not impair highway safety.

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