

HOUSE BILL 371

Unofficial Copy  
R6

2001 Regular Session  
11r1717  
CF 11r1718

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By: **Delegate Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2001  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 20, 2001

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Forest Products - Axle Load Limit Tolerance**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the axle load limit tolerance for certain vehicles during  
4 certain times when transporting forest products; altering a certain weight to  
5 conform with other provisions of law; and generally relating to axle load limit  
6 tolerances for forest products.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Transportation  
9 Section 24-109  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Transportation**

15 24-109.

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

17 (2) "Single axle weight" means the total weight transmitted by all wheels  
18 whose centers may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40  
19 inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

20 (3) "Tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road  
21 by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel

- 1 vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart  
 2 extending across the full width of the vehicle.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the overall gross weight  
 4 on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles may not exceed an amount produced by  
 5 application of the following formula:

$$6 \quad \left( \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

$$7 \quad W = 500 \left( \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

$$8 \quad \left( \frac{LN}{N-1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

9 where "W" = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the  
 10 nearest 500 pounds, "L" = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical  
 11 centerlines of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" =  
 12 number of axles in group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of  
 13 tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall  
 14 distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36  
 15 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand  
 16 (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or statutory tolerances.

17 (c) The following table indicates the permissible overall gross weights based  
 18 upon the above formula:

19 Distance in feet 20 between the 21 extremes of any 22 group of 2 or 23 more consecutive 24 axles	2 axes	3 axes	4 axes	5 axes	6 axes	7 axes
25 4	34,000					
26 5	34,000					
27 6	34,000					
28 7	34,000					
29 8	34,000	34,000				
30 and 31 less						
32 More 33 than	38,000	42,000				
34 8						
34 9	39,000	42,500				
35 10	40,000	43,500				
36 11		44,000				
37 12		45,000	50,000			
38 13		45,500	50,500			
39 14		46,500	51,500			

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1	15	47,000	52,000			
2	16	48,000	52,500	58,000		
3	17	48,500	53,500	58,500		
4	18	49,500	54,000	59,000		
5	19	50,000	54,500	60,000		
6	20	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	
7	21	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	
8	22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
9	23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
10	24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
11	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
12	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
13	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
14	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
15	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
16	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
17	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
18	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
19	33		64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
20	34		64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
21	35		65,500	70,000	75,000	
22	36	Exception: See	(66,000)	70,500	75,500	
23		subsection (b),				
24	37	this section	(66,500)	71,000	76,000	
25	38		(67,500)	72,000	77,000	
26	39		68,000	72,500	77,500	
27	40		68,500	73,000	78,000	
28	41		69,500	73,500	78,500	
29	42		70,000	74,000	79,000	
30	43		70,500	75,000	80,000	
31	44		71,500	75,500		
32	45		72,000	76,000		
33	46		72,500	76,500		
34	47		73,500	77,500		
35	48		74,000	78,000		
36	49		74,500	78,500		
37	50		75,500	79,000		

1	51	76,000	80,000
2	52	76,500	
3	53	77,500	
4	54	78,000	
5	55	78,500	
6	56	79,500	
7	57	80,000	

8 (d) The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed  
9 the following limits:

10	Number of	Gross
11	axles	weight
12		(in pounds)
13	Three or less	55,000
14	Four	66,000
15	Five as provided for	
16	in § 13-916 or § 13-923 of	
17	this article	<del>79,000</del> <u>80,000</u>

18 (e) A trailer with metal tires and a gross weight of more than 6,000 pounds  
19 may not be moved on a highway.

20 (f) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a  
21 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than  
22 45 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined  
23 under § 10-601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other  
24 off-highway locations, is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent from  
25 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, except during harvest time when [a] AN AXLE  
26 LOAD LIMIT tolerance of 15 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section is  
27 permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

- 28 (i) Wheat, for the period from June 1 to August 15;
- 29 (ii) Corn, for the period from July 1 to December 1;
- 30 (iii) Soybeans, for the period from September 1 to December 31; and
- 31 (iv) Vegetable crops, for the period from June 1 to October 31.

32 (2) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at  
33 least 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet  
34 carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway  
35 locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent from subsections (b)  
36 and (c) of this section, EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1 ~~TO~~ THROUGH

1 SEPTEMBER 30 WHEN AN AXLE LOAD LIMIT TOLERANCE OF 15 PERCENT FROM  
2 SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION IS PERMITTED.

3 (ii) Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a  
4 semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in  
5 forests or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance  
6 of 5 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section, EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD  
7 FROM JUNE 1 ~~TO~~ THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 WHEN AN AXLE LOAD LIMIT TOLERANCE  
8 OF 15 PERCENT FROM SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION IS PERMITTED.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2001.