

SENATE BILL 580

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R6

2001 Regular Session  
(11r1718)

**ENROLLED BILL**

-- *Judicial Proceedings/Commerce and Government Matters* --

Introduced by **Senators Hafer, Ferguson, Harris, Hooper, Mooney, Munson,  
and Stoltzfus**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

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:

Article - Transportation

24-109.

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

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

(3) "Tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel vertical planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

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

W = 500 ( (LN / (N-1)) + 12N + 36 )

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

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

Table with 7 columns: Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, 2 axles, 3 axles, 4 axles, 5 axles, 6 axles, 7 axles. Values range from 34,000 to 42,000.

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

1 56 79,500  
 2 57 80,000

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

5 Number of	Gross
6 axles	weight
7	(in pounds)
8 Three or less	55,000
9 Four	66,000
10 Five as provided for in	
11 a7 13-916 or § 13-923 of	
12 this article	<del>79,000</del> <u>80,000</u>

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

15 (f) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a  
 16 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than  
 17 45 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined  
 18 under § 10-601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other  
 19 off-highway locations, is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent from  
 20 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, except during harvest time when [a] AN AXLE  
 21 LOAD LIMIT tolerance of 15 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section is  
 22 permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

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

27 (2) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at  
 28 least 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet  
 29 carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway  
 30 locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent from subsections (b)  
 31 and (c) of this section, EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1 ~~TO~~ THROUGH  
 32 SEPTEMBER 30 WHEN AN AXLE LOAD LIMIT TOLERANCE OF 15 PERCENT FROM  
 33 SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION IS PERMITTED.

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

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