

SENATE BILL 580

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2001 Regular Session
1lr1718
CF 1lr1717

By: **Senators Hafer, Ferguson, Harris, Hooper, Mooney, Munson, and Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

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; and generally relating to axle
5 load limit tolerances for forest products.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (LN)

2 $W = 500 (\text{-----} + 12N + 36)$

3 (N-1)

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

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

14 Distance in feet						
15 between the						
16 extremes of any						
17 group of 2 or						
18 more consecutive						
19 axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
20 4	34,000					
21 5	34,000					
22 6	34,000					
23 7	34,000					
24 8	34,000	34,000				
25 and						
26 less						
27 More						
28 than	38,000	42,000				
8						
29 9	39,000	42,500				
30 10	40,000	43,500				
31 11	44,000					
32 12	45,000	50,000				
33 13	45,500	50,500				
34 14	46,500	51,500				
35 15	47,000	52,000				
36 16	48,000	52,500	58,000			
37 17	48,500	53,500	58,500			
38 18	49,500	54,000	59,000			

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

1	55	78,500
2	56	79,500
3	57	80,000

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (ii) Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a
36 semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in

1 forests or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance
2 of 5 percent from subsections (b) and (c) of this section, EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD
3 FROM JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30 WHEN AN AXLE LOAD LIMIT TOLERANCE OF 15
4 PERCENT FROM SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION IS PERMITTED.

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