

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2001

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; 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

- 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 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
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						
35 9	39,000	42,500				
36 10	40,000	43,500				
37 11		44,000				
38 12		45,000	50,000			
39 13		45,500	50,500			
40 14		46,500	51,500			

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
11	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
12	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500
13	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
14	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
15	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500
16	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000
17	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500
18	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000
19	33		64,000	68,500	74,000
20	34		64,500	69,000	74,500
21	35		65,500	70,000	75,000
22	36	Exception: See subsection (b), this section	(66,000)	70,500	75,500
23					
24	37		(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	79,000 <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.