

HOUSE BILL 528

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2004 Regular Session
4r1575
CF 4r1625

By: **Delegates Minnick, Bohanan, Bromwell, Cane, Cluster, DeBoy, Eckardt,
Frank, Impallaria, Jameson, Kach, Mitchell, Owings, Sossi, Walkup,
Weir, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2004

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Widths of Boat Trailers**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the width limitation for a private boat trailer traveling
4 from a point of origin to a boating, launching, repair, or fuel facility by the most
5 practical route; and generally relating to width limitations for boat trailers.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Transportation
8 Section 24-102
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 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 24-102.

15 (a) For purposes of this section, the width of a vehicle includes any load that it
16 carries and shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices, such as side
17 mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker lamps, steps and handholds for entry and egress,
18 flexible fender extensions, mudflaps and spray suppressant devices, and load-induced
19 tire bulges; providing the equipment or device, other than mirrors, does not extend
20 more than 3 inches on each side of the vehicle beyond the statutory width limitation.

21 (b) This section does not apply to any:

22 (1) Farm equipment;

23 (2) Vehicle transporting farm equipment; or

1 (3) Vehicle carrying a load of forage crops in connection with harvesting
2 operations, if the distance traveled with the load on the highways in this State is less
3 than 5 miles.

4 (c) (1) A vehicle may not be driven on any highway if the width of the
5 vehicle exceeds the limits specified in this subsection, unless:

6 (i) It has a permit issued by the State Highway Administration
7 under § 24-112 of this subtitle; or

8 (ii) As to a highway under the jurisdiction of a local authority, it has
9 special permission from the local authority.

10 (2) For a motor vehicle loaded with tobacco hogsheads or sod, the width
11 limit is 102 inches.

12 (3) For a bus, motor home, or travel trailer on any highway that is part of
13 the interstate system or State primary system or for a publicly owned transit bus, the
14 width limit is 102 inches.

15 (4) For a truck or combination of vehicles, the width limit is 102 inches,
16 provided that:

17 (i) It is being operated on any part of the interstate system or other
18 State system highways that are designated by the Secretary in conjunction with the
19 U.S. Department of Transportation; or

20 (ii) It is being operated on a highway that:

21 1. Is the shortest practical route between a designated
22 highway and a truck terminal, a point of origin/destination for cargo, or for a distance
23 not to exceed 1 mile, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, or rest; or

24 2. Is the safest practical route and is a State highway with 4
25 or more lanes.

26 (5) FOR A BOAT TRAILER, THE WIDTH LIMIT IS 102 INCHES PROVIDED IT
27 IS A PRIVATE BOAT TRAILER TRAVELING FROM A POINT OF ORIGIN TO A BOATING,
28 LAUNCHING, REPAIR, OR FUEL FACILITY BY THE MOST PRACTICAL ROUTE.

29 (6) For any other vehicle, the width limit is 96 inches.

30 (d) By ordinance, a municipal corporation or Baltimore City may permit the
31 operation in its jurisdiction of any bus that is not over 102 inches wide.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2004.