

---

By: **Senators Stone, Frosh, Garagiola, Giannetti, Green, Jimeno, and  
Mooney Mooney, Harris, and Jacobs**

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2005

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 8, 2005

---

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 2004 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:

1 (1) Farm equipment;

2 (2) Vehicle transporting farm equipment; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
35 October 1, 2005.

