

**ENROLLED BILL**

-- *Judicial Proceedings/Environmental Matters* --

Introduced by **Senators Haines, Garagiola, Giannetti, and ~~Jimeno~~ Jimeno,  
and Stone**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

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

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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 **Transportation - Vehicle Laws - Maximum Vehicle Width and Length**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for the calculation of the width of a motor home or  
4 travel trailer; authorizing the State Highway Administration and local  
5 authorities to restrict the width of vehicles traveling on certain highways in  
6 their jurisdiction under certain circumstances; requiring the State Highway  
7 Administration and local authorities to post certain signs if the width of vehicles  
8 is limited; increasing the maximum length of a ~~publicly owned rigid~~ bus or Class  
9 M motor home when operated on certain highways or routes; increasing the  
10 maximum length of a certain maxi-cube vehicle; and generally relating to  
11 vehicle laws and maximum vehicle widths and lengths.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Transportation  
14 Section 24-102 and 24-104.1  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
3 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

4 **Article - Transportation**

5 24-102.

6 (a) (1) [For] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
7 SUBSECTION, FOR purposes of this section, the width of a vehicle includes any load  
8 that it carries and shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices, such  
9 as side mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker lamps, steps and handholds for entry and  
10 egress, flexible fender extensions, mudflaps and spray suppressant devices, and  
11 load-induced tire bulges; providing the equipment or device, other than mirrors, does  
12 not extend more than 3 inches on each side of the vehicle beyond the statutory width  
13 limitation.

14 (2) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE WIDTH OF A MOTOR HOME OR  
15 TRAVEL TRAILER SHALL BE EXCLUSIVE OF RETRACTABLE AWNINGS INSTALLED BY  
16 THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURER OR DEALER, PROVIDED THAT THE AWNINGS DO NOT  
17 EXTEND MORE THAN 6 INCHES FROM EACH SIDE OF THE VEHICLE.

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

19 (1) Farm equipment;

20 (2) Vehicle transporting farm equipment; or

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

24 (c) (1) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
25 A vehicle may not be driven on any highway if the width of the vehicle exceeds [the  
26 limits specified in this subsection] 102 INCHES unless:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (5) For any other vehicle, the width limit is 96 inches.

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

15 (2) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
16 STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR A LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY PROHIBIT THE USE  
17 OF A HIGHWAY OR PART OF A HIGHWAY UNDER ITS JURISDICTION BY A VEHICLE  
18 EXCEEDING A CERTAIN WIDTH IF IT FINDS THAT A VEHICLE EXCEEDING A CERTAIN  
19 WIDTH LIKELY WOULD:

20 1. ENDANGER ROAD USERS;

21 2. CAUSE EXCESSIVE DETERIORATION TO THE HIGHWAY; OR

22 3. HARM PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE HIGHWAY.

23 (II) IF THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR A LOCAL  
24 AUTHORITY IMPOSES A VEHICLE WIDTH RESTRICTION UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF  
25 THIS SUBSECTION, IT SHALL PLACE AND MAINTAIN A SIGN PROVIDING NOTICE OF  
26 THE RESTRICTION BEFORE THE AFFECTED LOCATION.

27 24-104.1.

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

29 (2) "Automobiles" means all assembled motor vehicles:

30 (i) Capable of being operated on a highway; and

31 (ii) Authorized under this article to be operated on a highway.

32 (3) "Saddle-mount and full-mount combinations" means a truck tractor  
33 or unloaded truck towing 1 or more other truck tractors or unloaded trucks in  
34 combination.

1 (4) "Maxi-cube vehicle" means a nonarticulating straight truck:

2 (i) In combination with a semitrailer which does not exceed 34 feet,  
3 and is designed to be loaded and unloaded through the semitrailer; or

4 (ii) In combination with a trailer that does not exceed 28 feet.

5 (5) "Stinger-steered automobile transporter" means a truck tractor and  
6 semitrailer combination:

7 (i) Designed for and engaged exclusively in the transportation of  
8 automobiles or boats; and

9 (ii) In which the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame behind and  
10 below the rear axle of the power unit.

11 (b) (1) For purposes of this section, the length of a vehicle includes its front  
12 and rear bumpers and any part of its load that extends beyond the vehicle, but is  
13 exclusive of nonload bearing safety and energy conservation devices, such as marker  
14 lamps, steps and handholds for entry and egress, front-mounted refrigeration units,  
15 and front-mounted air compressors.

16 (2) The measurement of a combination of vehicles engaged in the  
17 transportation of automobiles or boats shall not include the overhang of the  
18 transported vehicles or boats or any retractable device on the rear of the combination  
19 when in use to support a transported vehicle.

20 (c) (1) This section does not apply to any vehicle or combination of vehicles  
21 carrying:

22 (i) Piling, poles, or mill logs; or

23 (ii) Crew or racing shells.

24 (2) This section does not prohibit the use of a combination of vehicles to  
25 carry an indivisible load if the load is not over 70 feet long.

26 (d) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, a bus, a single unit truck, or~~  
27 ~~a Class M motor home may not be over 40 feet long.~~

28 (e) (1) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, a publicly owned rigid~~  
29 ~~bus may not be over 41 feet long.~~

30 (2) ~~The length of a [bus on any highway that is part of the interstate~~  
31 ~~system or State primary system may not exceed 45 feet.] BUS, OTHER THAN A~~  
32 ~~PUBLICLY OWNED RIGID BUS OR A CLASS M MOTOR HOME MAY NOT EXCEED 45 FEET~~  
33 ~~BUT MAY EXCEED 40 FEET IF IT IS BEING OPERATED ON:~~

34 (1) ~~ANY PART OF THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OR THE~~  
35 ~~STATE PRIMARY SYSTEM; OR~~

1 ~~(H) THE SHORTEST PRACTICAL ROUTE BETWEEN AN INTERSTATE~~  
2 ~~HIGHWAY OR A STATE PRIMARY HIGHWAY AND:~~

3 ~~1. ITS POINT OF ORIGIN OR DESTINATION FOR A~~  
4 ~~PARTICULAR DAY; OR~~

5 ~~2. FOR A DISTANCE NOT TO EXCEED 1 MILE, FACILITIES FOR~~  
6 ~~FOOD, FUEL, REPAIRS, OR REST.~~

7 (D) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION:

8 (1) A BUS, SINGLE UNIT TRUCK, OR CLASS M MOTOR HOME MAY NOT BE  
9 OVER 40 FEET LONG; AND

10 (2) A PUBLICLY OWNED RIGID BUS MAY NOT BE OVER 41 FEET LONG.

11 (E) (1) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PUBLICLY OWNED RIGID  
12 BUS.

13 (2) A BUS OR A CLASS M MOTOR HOME MAY BE OVER 40 FEET LONG BUT  
14 MAY NOT BE OVER 45 FEET LONG;

15 (I) WHEN OPERATED ON AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY OR ANY PART  
16 OF THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY IN  
17 CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; OR

18 (II) WHEN OPERATED ON A HIGHWAY THAT IS NOT SPECIFIED IN  
19 ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IF THE BUS OR MOTOR HOME IS USING THE HIGHWAY  
20 TO TRAVEL THE SHORTEST PRACTICAL ROUTE BETWEEN A HIGHWAY SPECIFIED IN  
21 ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND:

22 1. THE POINT OF ORIGIN OR DESTINATION OF THE BUS OR  
23 MOTOR HOME ON A PARTICULAR DAY;

24 2. A BUS TERMINAL; OR

25 3. FOR A DISTANCE NOT TO EXCEED 1 MILE, FACILITIES FOR  
26 FOOD, FUEL, REPAIRS, OR REST.

27 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a publicly owned articulated  
28 three-axle bus may not be over 60 feet long.

29 (g) Any other vehicle may not exceed a length of 35 feet.

30 (h) When a semitrailer and a trailer (double) are being operated in  
31 combination with a truck tractor, the combination of vehicles shall not be subject to  
32 an overall length limitation. This combination may only be operated on any part of  
33 the interstate system or other State system highways that are designated by the  
34 Secretary in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation, or on a  
35 highway that is the shortest practical route between a designated highway and a  
36 truck terminal, or point of origin/destination for cargo, or for a distance not to exceed

1 1 mile, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, or rest. A semitrailer or trailer being operated  
2 in this combination may not exceed 28 feet in length for each unit.

3 (i) When a semitrailer (single) is being operated in combination with a truck  
4 tractor, the combination of vehicles shall not be subject to an overall length limit,  
5 however, the semitrailer may not exceed 48 feet in length.

6 (j) Except as otherwise provided in this section:

7 (1) In a combination of vehicles with a power unit that is a  
8 cargo-carrying vehicle, the overall length of the combination may not exceed 62 feet;

9 (2) Any other combination of vehicles may not exceed 55 feet; and

10 (3) (i) 1. A truck or truck tractor and semitrailer combination  
11 designed for and engaged exclusively in the transportation of automobiles or boats  
12 may not exceed 65 feet in length;

13 2. A stinger-steered automobile transporter or a  
14 saddle-mount or a full-mount combination may not exceed 75 feet in length; and

15 3. A. A maxi-cube vehicle described in subsection (a)(4)(i)  
16 of this section may not exceed 65 feet in length; and

17 B. A maxi-cube vehicle described in subsection (a)(4)(ii) of  
18 this section may not exceed 60 feet in length;

19 (ii) No other length requirements may be applied to the  
20 combinations of vehicles described in item (i) of this paragraph; and

21 (iii) The combinations of vehicles described in item (i) of this  
22 paragraph may only be operated on any part of the interstate system or other State  
23 system highways that are designated by the Secretary in conjunction with the U.S.  
24 Department of Transportation, or on a highway that is the shortest practical route  
25 between a designated highway and:

26 1. A truck terminal;

27 2. A point of origin/destination for cargo; or

28 3. For a distance not to exceed 1 mile, facilities for food, fuel,  
29 repairs, or rest.

30 (j-1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j) of this section, when a  
31 semitrailer is being operated in combination with a power unit that is equipped with  
32 a dromedary box being used to transport explosives and munitions classified under 49  
33 C.F.R. Part 173.50 that are intended for use by the United States Department of  
34 Defense, the combination of vehicles is not subject to an overall length limit, but the  
35 semitrailer may not exceed 48 feet in length.

1 (k) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (h) of this section,  
2 nothing shall prevent the operation of a combination of vehicles in which the  
3 semitrailer (single) does not exceed 48 1/2 feet in length or a combination of vehicles in  
4 which the semitrailer or trailer (double) does not exceed 28 1/2 feet in length for each  
5 unit; provided, the combination has been lawfully operated on the highways of this  
6 State prior to December 1, 1982.

7 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (j)(1) of this section,  
8 nothing shall prevent a power unit, which was equipped with a dromedary box, deck,  
9 or plate and was legally operated in Maryland prior to December 1, 1982, in  
10 combination with a semitrailer or trailer from exceeding the overall length limit of 55  
11 feet.

12 (l) (1) In this subsection, "vehicle" means:

13 (i) A semitrailer as defined in § 11-158 of this article; or

14 (ii) A trailer as defined in § 11-169 of this article.

15 (2) Notwithstanding the overall length of the combination, a truck  
16 tractor may not be operated on a highway in the State in combination with more than  
17 2 vehicles.

18 (m) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a combination of  
19 noncommercial vehicles consisting of a power unit and a travel trailer may not exceed  
20 [60] 65 feet in length.

21 (2) The combination of vehicles exceeding 55 feet but authorized under  
22 this subsection may only be operated on:

23 (i) Any part of the interstate system or other State system  
24 highways that are designated by the Secretary in conjunction with the U.S.  
25 Department of Transportation; or

26 (ii) A highway that is the shortest practical route between a  
27 designated highway and:

28 1. A point of origin or destination on a particular day; or

29 2. For a distance not to exceed 1 mile, facilities for food, fuel,  
30 repairs, or rest.

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

