

# HOUSE BILL 110

R6

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By: **Chair, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Transportation)**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2011

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Weight Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain weight limits for over-the-road buses and certain  
4 vehicles used for a certain purpose; providing certain weight limit tolerances for  
5 vehicles that use certain technologies under certain circumstances; and  
6 generally relating to weight limits for motor vehicles.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Transportation  
9 Section 24–108  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Transportation  
14 Section 24–109(g)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 24–108.

21 (a) For purposes of this section, the distance between coupled axles  
22 (commonly known as “tandem” axles) shall be measured horizontally between their  
23 centerlines.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection **AND EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION**, the gross weight imposed on the ground surface by the wheels of an axle or axles of a vehicle may not exceed the following limits:

		(I) Combination Vehicles	
No. of Axles		Registered Gross Weight of Vehicle Combination (in Pounds)	Gross Maximum Weight (in Pounds)
Single axle		73,000 or less	22,400
Single axle		More than 73,000	20,000
Coupled axle		73,000 or less	36,000
Coupled axle		More than 73,000	34,000
		(II) Single Unit Vehicles	
No. of Axles		Axle Distances Specification	Gross Maximum Weight (in Pounds)
Single axle			22,400
Coupled axles		Axles spaced less than 48 inches apart	36,000
Coupled axles		Axles spaced 48 inches or more apart	40,000

(2) Except for vehicles operated under a permit issued under § 24–112 of this subtitle, the gross weight imposed on the ground surface by the wheels of a front axle of a vehicle combination may not exceed either the lesser of:

(i) The sum of the rated load capacities for each tire on the axle, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section; or

(ii) The sum of the rated load capacities indicated by the manufacturer as to each tire on the axle with which the vehicle originally was equipped, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, any vehicle with a gross maximum weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may travel only on State highways, except while making a delivery or pickup, and then only when traveling by the shortest available legal route to or from the State highway for the purpose of making such delivery or pickup. In Baltimore City, the shortest available legal route shall be only on designated truck routes.

(ii) If approved by the local governing body and the State Highway Administration, in Dorchester County, a vehicle with a gross maximum

1 weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may use the Linkwood Road when traveling  
2 between East New Market and Linkwood.

3 (iii) 1. The County Commissioners of Garrett County may,  
4 by ordinance, establish the authorized gross maximum weight of a vehicle that:

5 A. Has at least 6 axles;

6 B. Is a truck tractor and semitrailer combination; and

7 C. Is using any part of Table Rock Road and Wilson Run  
8 Road in Garrett County that is owned and maintained by the county.

9 2. The gross maximum weight established under this  
10 subparagraph may not exceed 87,000 pounds.

11 (c) Except on interstate highways, a vehicle carrying farm products as  
12 defined under § 10–601 of the Agriculture Article or forest products that have been  
13 loaded in fields or other off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance  
14 of 10 percent.

15 (d) (1) In Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County, garbage and  
16 refuse trucks that make collections on a fixed route and are owned by or doing  
17 business with any governmental entity in the respective county are permitted rear  
18 axle load limit tolerances of 10 percent if:

19 (i) The overweight is due to bad weather; and

20 (ii) The truck does not exceed its registered gross weight limit.

21 (2) A privately owned truck is permitted this tolerance only while  
22 actually engaged in the business of the governmental entity.

23 **(E) ANY OVER-THE-ROAD BUS OR ANY VEHICLE THAT IS REGULARLY**  
24 **AND EXCLUSIVELY USED AS AN INTRASTATE PUBLIC AGENCY TRANSIT**  
25 **PASSENGER BUS MAY NOT EXCEED:**

26 **(1) A SINGLE AXLE WEIGHT LIMIT OF 24,000 POUNDS; OR**

27 **(2) THE TIRE MANUFACTURER’S RATED LOAD CAPACITY FOR ANY**  
28 **TIRE ON THE VEHICLE.**

29 24–109.

30 **(G) (1) ANY VEHICLE THAT USES AN AUXILIARY POWER UNIT OR AN**  
31 **IDLE-REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY UNIT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE REDUCTION OF**

1 FUEL USE AND EMISSIONS FROM ENGINE IDLING SHALL BE ALLOWED UP TO AN  
2 ADDITIONAL 400 POUNDS TOTAL IN GROSS, AXLE, TANDEM, OR BRIDGE  
3 FORMULA WEIGHT LIMITS.

4 (2) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ADDITIONAL WEIGHT LIMIT  
5 ALLOWED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE VEHICLE  
6 OPERATOR MUST:

7 (i) OBTAIN AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT  
8 OFFICERS WRITTEN CERTIFICATION OF THE WEIGHT OF THE AUXILIARY POWER  
9 UNIT OR IDLE-REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY UNIT; AND

10 (ii) BY DEMONSTRATION OR CERTIFICATION, PROVE THAT  
11 THE IDLE-REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY UNIT IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL AT ALL TIMES.

12 (3) THE ADDITIONAL WEIGHT LIMIT ALLOWED UNDER  
13 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT EXCEED THE CERTIFIED WEIGHT  
14 OF THE AUXILIARY POWER UNIT OR IDLE-REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY UNIT.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2011.