

# SENATE BILL 86

R6

EMERGENCY BILL  
(PRE-FILED)

4lr0013

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By: **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Departmental –  
Transportation)**

Requested: September 30, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Size, Weight, and Axle Load Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting certain vehicles engaged in emergency operations or in  
4 snow or ice removal from certain provisions of law governing size, weight, and  
5 axle load limits; repealing a certain provision of law that authorizes the State  
6 Highway Administration to issue limited duration special vehicle permits in  
7 exceptional cases of vehicles exceeding size or weight limits; making this Act an  
8 emergency measure; and generally relating to vehicle size, weight, and axle load  
9 limits.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Transportation  
12 Section 24–101 and 24–113  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 24–101.

19 (a) The provisions of this subtitle governing size, weight, and load do not  
20 apply to:

21 (1) Emergency vehicles;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Farm equipment temporarily moved on a highway; [or]

2 (3) [A vehicle driven under the terms of a special permit issued under  
3 this subtitle] **VEHICLES OWNED BY THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF**  
4 **THE STATE WHEN ENGAGED IN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OR IN SNOW OR ICE**  
5 **REMOVAL CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW; OR**

6 (4) **ANY OTHER VEHICLE DRIVEN UNDER THE TERMS AND**  
7 **CONDITIONS OF A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

8 (b) A person may not drive on any publicly maintained highway any vehicle  
9 or combination of vehicles with a gross weight that exceeds:

10 (1) The maximum registered weight limit for which the vehicle or  
11 combination is registered under § 24–110 of this subtitle; or

12 (2) Any other weight limit established under the Maryland Vehicle  
13 Law.

14 (c) A person may not permit to be driven on any publicly maintained  
15 highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross weight that exceeds:

16 (1) The maximum registered weight limit for which the vehicle or  
17 combination is registered under § 24–110 of this subtitle; or

18 (2) Any other weight limit established under the Maryland Vehicle  
19 Law.

20 (d) A violation of the maximum weight provisions of this subtitle is not a  
21 moving violation for purposes of Title 16, Subtitle 4 of this article.

22 24–113.

23 (a) The purpose of this section is to:

24 (1) Facilitate the obtaining of permits;

25 (2) Eliminate undue hardships to political subdivisions, contractors,  
26 and the movers of heavy or large equipment; and

27 (3) Make possible, when circumstances justify, the issuing of permits  
28 under which more than one move can be made.

29 (b) The State Highway Administration and the Department of State Police  
30 jointly may formulate rules and regulations that:

1           (1)    Implement the statutes on the movement of oversize and  
2 overweight vehicles; and

3           (2)    Establish fees and charges under these statutes.

4           (c)    (1)    Before a rule or regulation may be adopted or amended under this  
5 section, the State Highway Administration shall hold a public hearing on it.

6           (2)    After the hearing, the State Highway Administration may adopt  
7 the proposed rule, regulation, or amendment or any appropriate modification to it.

8           [(d)    In exceptional cases, special vehicle permits may be issued for vehicles  
9 exceeding maximum size and weight limitations; however, it is not intended to allow  
10 regular and continuous movement by a vehicle operating with a permit issued under  
11 this subsection.]

12           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
13 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
14 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
15 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from  
16 the date it is enacted.