

HOUSE BILL 486

R6

6lr0870

By: **Delegates Reilly, Anderton, Arentz, Carozza, Cassilly, Ghrist, Jacobs, Kittleman, Mautz, McDonough, Otto, and Parrott**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2016

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Gross Vehicle Weight – Agricultural Products**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain tolerance from the gross vehicle weight limits for
4 certain vehicles used in certain agricultural activities during harvest time under
5 certain circumstances.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article – Transportation

8 Section 24–109

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Transportation**

14 24–109.

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

16 (2) “Single axle weight” means the total weight transmitted by all wheels
17 whose centers may be included between 2 parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches
18 apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

19 (3) “Tandem axle weight” means the total weight transmitted to the road
20 by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel vertical
21 planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart extending
22 across the full width of the vehicle.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) An over-the-road bus or any vehicle that is regularly and exclusively used as an intrastate public agency passenger bus:

(1) Is exempt from tandem axle weight limits provided in this section; but

(2) Shall comply with the vehicle and combination of vehicles weight limits provided in this section that are not tandem axle weight limits.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the overall gross weight on a group of 2 or more consecutive axles may not exceed an amount produced by application of the following formula:

$$W = 500 \left(\frac{LN}{N - 1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$

where “W” = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, “L” = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical centerlines of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and “N” = number of axles in group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or statutory tolerances.

(d) The following table indicates the permissible overall gross weights based upon the above formula:

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
4	34,000					
5	34,000					
6	34,000					
7	34,000					
8						
and less	34,000	34,000				
More than						
8	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500				
11		44,000				

1	12	45,000	50,000			
2	13	45,500	50,500			
3	14	46,500	51,500			
4	15	47,000	52,000			
5	16	48,000	52,500	58,000		
6	17	48,500	53,500	58,500		
7	18	49,500	54,000	59,000		
8	19	50,000	54,500	60,000		
9	20	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	
10	21	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	
11	22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	
12	23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	
13	24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
14	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
15	26	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
16	27	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500
17	28	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
18	29	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
19	30	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
20	31	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
21	32	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
22	33		64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000
23	34		64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000
24	35		65,500	70,000	75,000	
25	36	Exception:				
26		See				
27		subsection				
28		(c),				
29		this				
30		section	(66,000)	70,500	75,500	
31	37		(66,500)	71,000	76,000	
32	38		(67,500)	72,000	77,000	
33	39		68,000	72,500	77,500	
34	40		68,500	73,000	78,000	
35	41		69,500	73,500	78,500	
36	42		70,000	74,000	79,000	
37	43		70,500	75,000	80,000	
38	44		71,500	75,500		
39	45		72,000	76,000		
40	46		72,500	76,500		
41	47		73,500	77,500		
42	48		74,000	78,000		
43	49		74,500	78,500		
44	50		75,500	79,000		
45	51		76,000	80,000		
46	52		76,500			
47	53		77,500			

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1	54	78,000
2	55	78,500
3	56	79,500
4	57	80,000

5 (e) The gross weight of any vehicle or combination of vehicles may not exceed the
6 following limits:

7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Number of					Gross	
		axles					weight	
							(in pounds)	
10	Three or less						55,000	
11	Four						66,000	
12	Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of this							
13	article						80,000	

14 (f) A trailer with metal tires and a gross weight of more than 6,000 pounds may
15 not be moved on a highway.

16 (g) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a
17 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than 45
18 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined under §
19 10–601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other off-highway locations,
20 is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent from subsections (c) and (d) of this
21 section, except during harvest time when an axle load limit tolerance **OR A GROSS**
22 **VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT TOLERANCE** of 15 percent from subsections (c) and (d) of this
23 section is permitted for a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

24 (i) Wheat, for the period from June 1 to August 15;

25 (ii) Corn, for the period from July 1 to December 1;

26 (iii) Soybeans, for the period from September 1 to December 31; and

27 (iv) Vegetable crops, for the period from June 1 to October 31.

28 (2) (i) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at least
29 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet carrying forest
30 products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway locations is
31 permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 10 percent from subsections (c) and (d) of this
32 section, except for the period from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load limit
33 tolerance of 15 percent from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted.

34 (ii) Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a
35 semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests
36 or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of 5 percent
37 from subsections (c) and (d) of this section, except for the period from June 1 through

1 September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of 15 percent from subsections (c) and (d)
2 of this section is permitted.

3 (h) (1) Any vehicle that uses an auxiliary power unit or an idle–reduction
4 technology unit in order to promote reduction of fuel use and emissions from engine idling
5 shall be allowed up to an additional 550 pounds total in gross, axle, tandem, or bridge
6 formula weight limits.

7 (2) To be eligible for the additional weight limit allowed under paragraph
8 (1) of this subsection, the vehicle operator must:

9 (i) Obtain and make available to law enforcement officers written
10 certification of the weight of the auxiliary power unit or idle–reduction technology unit; and

11 (ii) By demonstration or certification, prove that the idle–reduction
12 technology unit is fully functional at all times.

13 (3) The additional weight limit allowed under paragraph (1) of this
14 subsection may not exceed the certified weight of the auxiliary power unit or idle–reduction
15 technology unit.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
17 1, 2016.