

# HOUSE BILL 646

R6

8lr0440  
CF SB 1069

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By: **Delegates Reilly, Adams, Afzali, Anderton, Arentz, Beitzel, Buckel, Carozza, Cassilly, Clark, Folden, Ghrist, Glass, Hornberger, S. Howard, Impallaria, Jacobs, Krebs, Malone, McComas, McDonough, McKay, Morgan, Otto, Parrott, Rey, Rose, Saab, Sample-Hughes, Shoemaker, Sophocleus, Szeliga, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2018

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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; limiting the distance within which a certain vehicle operating  
6 under a certain tolerance from a certain gross vehicle weight limit may travel;  
7 making stylistic changes; and generally relating to gross vehicle weight.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 24–109

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 24–109.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

5 (3) "Tandem axle weight" means the total weight transmitted to the road  
6 by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel vertical  
7 planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart extending  
8 across the full width of the vehicle.

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

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

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

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

17 
$$W = 500 \left( \frac{LN}{N - 1} + 12N + 36 \right)$$
  
18  
19

20 where "W" = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest  
21 500 pounds, "L" = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical centerlines  
22 of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and "N" = number of axles in  
23 group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross  
24 load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles  
25 of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross  
26 weight may not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or  
27 statutory tolerances.

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

30	Distance in						
31	feet between						
32	the extremes of						
33	any group of 2						
34	or more						
35	consecutive						
36	axles	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles
37	4	34,000					

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

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1	43	70,500	75,000	80,000
2	44	71,500	75,500	
3	45	72,000	76,000	
4	46	72,500	76,500	
5	47	73,500	77,500	
6	48	74,000	78,000	
7	49	74,500	78,500	
8	50	75,500	79,000	
9	51	76,000	80,000	
10	52	76,500		
11	53	77,500		
12	54	78,000		
13	55	78,500		
14	56	79,500		
15	57	80,000		

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

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Number of					Gross
		axles					weight
							(in pounds)
21	Three or less						55,000
22	Four						66,000
23	Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of this						
24	article						80,000

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

27 (g) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a  
28 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than 45  
29 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined under §  
30 10–601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other off-highway locations,  
31 is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of **[5 percent] 5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of  
32 this section, except during harvest time when an axle load limit tolerance of **[15 percent]**  
33 **15% OR, SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A GROSS VEHICLE**  
34 **WEIGHT TOLERANCE OF 5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted for a  
35 vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

- 36 (i) Wheat, for the period from June 1 to August 15;
- 37 (ii) Corn, for the period from July 1 to December 1;
- 38 (iii) Soybeans, for the period from September 1 to December 31; and
- 39 (iv) Vegetable crops, for the period from June 1 to October 31.

1           (2)   **THE HARVEST TIME GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT TOLERANCE**  
2 **OF 5% UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A VEHICLE**  
3 **TRAVELING WITHIN 100 MILES OF THE FIELD OR OTHER OFF-HIGHWAY LOCATION**  
4 **WHERE THE VEHICLE WAS LOADED.**

5           (3)   (i)    Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with at least  
6 3 axles or a combination of vehicles with a trailer length of less than 32 feet carrying forest  
7 products that have been loaded in forests or other similar off-highway locations is  
8 permitted an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[10 percent]~~ **10%** from subsections (c) and (d) of  
9 this section, except for the period from June 1 through September 30 when an axle load  
10 limit tolerance of ~~[15 percent]~~ **15%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted.

11           (ii)   Except on interstate highways, a combination of vehicles with a  
12 semitrailer length of 45 feet or less carrying forest products that have been loaded in forests  
13 or other similar off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[5~~  
14 ~~percent]~~ **5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section, except for the period from June 1  
15 through September 30 when an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[15 percent]~~ **15%** from  
16 subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted.

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

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

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

25           (ii)   By demonstration or certification, prove that the idle-reduction  
26 technology unit is fully functional at all times.

27           (3)   The additional weight limit allowed under paragraph (1) of this  
28 subsection may not exceed the certified weight of the auxiliary power unit or idle-reduction  
29 technology unit.

30           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
31 1, 2018.