

Chapter 254

(House Bill 1401)

AN ACT concerning

**Vehicle Laws – Overweight Vehicles – ~~Heavyweight~~ Heavy Weight Port Corridor Permit**

FOR the purpose of authorizing the ~~State Highway Administration to designate any highway within a certain radius of the Port of Baltimore to be part of a heavyweight port corridor~~ Secretary of Transportation to determine that a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting certain freight is an indivisible load authorized to obtain a certain overweight vehicle permit under certain circumstances; establishing certain conditions for a vehicle issued a permit under this Act, including a requirement to travel only on roads designated as being part of a “heavy weight port corridor”; establishing a certain maximum gross vehicle weight for a vehicle with a permit for traveling on a ~~heavyweight~~ heavy weight port corridor; ~~authorizing certain vehicles to operate on a heavyweight heavy weight port corridor~~ requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations for the issuance of permits under this Act; and generally relating to a ~~heavyweight~~ heavy weight port corridor permit.

BY adding to

Article – Transportation  
Section 24–109(i) and 24–113.3  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – Transportation  
Section 24–113.1  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

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

**Article – Transportation**

24–109.

**(I) (1) ~~THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY DESIGNATE ANY HIGHWAY WITHIN A 10 MILE RADIUS OF THE PORT OF BALTIMORE TO BE PART OF A HEAVYWEIGHT PORT CORRIDOR.~~**

~~(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE SECTION, THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF A VEHICLE FOR WHICH A PERMIT IS ISSUED UNDER § ~~24-113.1~~ 24-113.3 OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR TRAVEL ON A DESIGNATED HEAVYWEIGHT PORT TRAVELING ALONG A DESIGNATED HEAVY WEIGHT PORT CORRIDOR MAY NOT EXCEED 100,000 POUNDS.~~

~~24-113.1.~~

~~(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, and subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Secretary, by regulation, may determine that a combination of vehicles carrying manifested international freight as the only load of the vehicle in a sealed, seagoing container on a semitrailer is carrying an indivisible load provided that:~~

~~(1) A vehicle issued a permit under this section may not exceed:~~

~~(i) 22,400 pounds gross maximum weight for a single axle, 44,000 pounds gross maximum weight for 2 consecutive axles, or 90,000 pounds gross maximum weight; OR~~

~~(ii) FOR A VEHICLE TRAVELING ON A HEAVYWEIGHT PORT CORRIDOR ESTABLISHED UNDER § 24-109(i) OF THIS SUBTITLE, 100,000 POUNDS GROSS MAXIMUM WEIGHT; and~~

~~(2) A vehicle issued a permit under this section may be operated only on:~~

~~(i) FOR VEHICLES DESCRIBED IN ITEM (1)(i) OF THIS SUBSECTION:~~

~~1. Those parts of the interstate and State systems of highways that are designated by the Secretary in conjunction with the United States Department of Transportation; OR~~

~~[(ii)] 2. Any other highway, authorized by the Secretary, that is the shortest practical route between a highway designated pursuant to [subparagraph (i)] ITEM 1 of this [paragraph] ITEM and:~~

~~[1.] A. A truck terminal;~~

~~[2.] B. A port or other point of origin or destination; or~~

~~[3.] C. For a distance not to exceed one mile, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, or rest; OR~~

~~(H) FOR A VEHICLE DESCRIBED IN ITEM (1)(H) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A HEAVYWEIGHT PORT CORRIDOR.~~

~~(b) (1) The Secretary shall adopt regulations, consistent with the provisions of this section, for the issuance of permits for vehicles described under subsection (a) of this section.~~

~~(2) The regulations adopted under this subsection may set fees and shall establish maximum axle and gross weight limits, routes, and other necessary criteria.~~

~~(c) The authority granted under the provisions of this section may not be exercised unless and until the Secretary determines in writing that its exercise:~~

~~(1) Is required to provide access to or egress from the Port of Baltimore for international freight;~~

~~(2) Will not cause extraordinary damage to roads and bridges in the State or require extraordinary expense for the maintenance of those roads and bridges;~~

~~(3) Will not cause undue adverse environmental impact upon or unduly disrupt residential neighborhoods; and~~

~~(4) Will not impair highway safety.~~

**24-113.3.**

**(A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, THE SECRETARY, BY REGULATION, MAY DETERMINE THAT A VEHICLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES TRANSPORTING MANIFESTED INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT AS THE ONLY LOAD OF THE VEHICLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES IN A SEALED, SEAGOING CONTAINER ON A SEMITRAILER IS TRANSPORTING AN INDIVISIBLE LOAD, PROVIDED THAT THE VEHICLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES IS ISSUED A PERMIT UNDER THIS SECTION AND:**

**(1) IS CARRYING NOT MORE THAN 100,000 POUNDS GROSS MAXIMUM VEHICLE WEIGHT;**

**(2) HAS THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF AXLES REQUIRED BY THE PERMIT;**

**(3) DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM AXLE WEIGHT OR AXLE SPACING REQUIREMENTS, AS ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION OR SPECIFIED ON THE PERMIT;**

**(4) IS TRAVELING ONLY DURING THE HOURS AS ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION OR SPECIFIED ON THE PERMIT;**

**(5) ADHERES TO A UNIQUE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT SPECIFIED ON THE PERMIT; AND**

**(6) IS TRAVELING ONLY ON STATE OR COUNTY HIGHWAYS THAT ARE:**

**(I) ON THE SPECIFIC ROUTE ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION AND SPECIFIED ON THE PERMIT BETWEEN THE SEAGIRT MARINE TERMINAL AND A DESTINATION AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY, WITH NO DEVIATION FROM THE SPECIFIC ROUTE; AND**

**(II) SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY AS BEING PART OF A “HEAVY WEIGHT PORT CORRIDOR”.**

**(B) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS, CONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION, FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR VEHICLES DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

**(2) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:**

**(I) MAY SET PERMIT FEES; AND**

**(II) SHALL ESTABLISH AXLE AND GROSS WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS, ROUTES, AND OTHER NECESSARY CRITERIA.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 30, 2019.