

HB 225 - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Prod

Uploaded by: Grayson Middleton

Position: FAV



Educate. Advocate. Innovate.

Date: February 4, 2025
To: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Grayson Middleton, Government Affairs Manager
Re: HB 225 – Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products – **Support**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, companies, and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports HB 225 and urges a favorable committee report.

HB 225 would include field-loaded farm products in an exceptional hauling permit and would increase the weight allowances of these products given they have the appropriate number of axles. These products include (but are not limited to) live poultry, grain, raw milk, and produce.

Farm-loaded products, including poultry, are currently subject to the same weight restrictions as other commodities. However, they cannot be properly weighed coming out of the field or poultry farms. These greater allowances will ensure that our third-party haulers are operating within legal limits while allowing for proper tracking and inspection for the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Aside from the obvious benefit of fewer trips for our haulers, this permit will also directly result in fewer emissions and less stress on Maryland roads. Fewer trips translate to less fuel usage and less carbon output. Finally, this bill requires commensurate axles with higher weights, so although the haulers may have more weight, the stress on roads will not increase.

This legislation is mutually beneficial to the environment, MDOT, and the regulated community, and as such, we urge a **favorable** vote on HB 225.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at middleton@dcahicken.com or 410-490-3329.

Sincerely,

Grayson Middleton

Government Affairs Manager

HB225 - Support - Maryland Motor Truck Association

Uploaded by: Louis Campion

Position: FAV

Maryland Motor Truck Association



NOTHING WITHOUT
TRUCKING 

HEARING DATE: February 6, 2025

BILL NO/TITLE: HB225: Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products

COMMITTEE: House Environment & Transportation

POSITION: **Support**

Maryland Motor Truck Association is a not-for-profit trade association serving nearly 1,000 member companies since 1935. Our members include numerous agricultural product haulers, including those delivering poultry, grain, milk, and much more.

MMTA offers its support for HB225, which would consolidate and harmonize the process for obtaining an exceptional hauling permit for all types of farm products, affirm that only milk products can use the Interstate system under these permits (in accordance with Federal law), and clarify the appropriate number of axles and minimum spacing requirements to ensure safe transport of these heavier loads.

For the reasons noted above, MMTA urges a favorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association that has represented the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

For further information, contact: Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-5663

HB0225 - SHA - LOS - Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Ha

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 225 – Vehicle Laws – Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 225 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 225 will reduce the administrative burden for permit applicants and the State Highway Administration (SHA) as it relates to obtaining and issuing exceptional hauling permits for field-loaded agricultural products, defined in Transportation Article §24-113.2. Additionally, SB 203 increases the maximum gross weight of a vehicle operating under an exceptional hauling permit with at least five axles from 87,000 pounds to 88,000 pounds.

Under current law, the administrative requirements associated with the issuance of hauling permits for field-loaded agriculture products are excessively burdensome and difficult for the SHA to track and enforce. House Bill 225 would create a simplified permitting application and issuance process which reflects continuity with existing permits that have been vetted over extended periods of time for safety and renewal.

The SHA believes that the amendments proposed to Transportation Article §24-113.2 in House Bill 225 would promote compliance with permitting requirements for farm-loaded agricultural products, which improves the accuracy of hauling data and allows SHA to better document route and regional infrastructure usage. This data is critical for SHA’s asset management and system preservation program.

The Exceptional Hauling Permit would be inclusive of all field loaded farm products as defined in Agricultural Article §10-601(c). Farm products as defined in current statute include any agricultural, horticultural, vegetable, or fruit product of the soil, including livestock, meats, marine food products, poultry, eggs, dairy products, wool, hides, feathers, nuts, honey, and every product of farm, forest, orchard, garden or water.

House Bill 225 does not alter existing hauling permit fees. SHA anticipates a moderate increase in issued hauling permits; however, it does not expect a significant financial impact. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts to revenues to the Transportation Trust Fund from the bill changes.

The Honorable Marc Korman
Page Two

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 225 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

William Pines, P.E.
Administrator
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-545-0400

Matthew Mickler
Director
Office of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

SB 203_HB 225 LOS .docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Jones

Position: FAV



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Kevin Atticks, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
mda.maryland.gov

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading
Industry

410.841.5885 Baltimore/Washington
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Maryland Department of Agriculture Legislative Comment Date: February 6, 2025

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 225
SHORT TITLE: **Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products**
MDA POSITION: Support

HB 225 simplifies and modernizes regulation of transportation of farm products to processors and markets. The hauling of agricultural products is an essential part of the success of farmers and the companies which process bulk agriculture commodities and support the supply chain of the industry. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) supports this legislation.

This will make Maryland more competitive with neighboring states. The current weight limit in Maryland is 87,000 maximum gross pounds with tolerance on six axles. In Virginia, it is 90,000 pounds with 5 axles. In Delaware, it is 90,000 pounds with five or more axles. And, in Pennsylvania the maximum is 95,000 pounds with five axles or 107,000 pounds with six axles. The expansion of the maximum to 88,000 pounds with five axles in Maryland will make a significant difference for the agricultural industry, resulting in fewer truckloads for certain products and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from that reduction in truckloads.

This will benefit at least 129 truckers who are hauling raw milk from the state's 287 dairy farms to processing plants in the state. This legislation simplifies regulation of vehicles carrying fluid milk and other agricultural products. The Governor's Dairy Advisory Council for a number of years emphasized the importance of milk hauling in a viable dairy sector in the state, for example. Dairy farms in Maryland produced 846 million pounds of milk in 2023, a fresh perishable product that needs to be hauled to processors daily.

Other products, such as sweet corn and green beans, are routinely hauled from farms to canneries and frozen food processors. In total, Maryland farms produce more than \$3.3 billion in products that all need to be transported from locations throughout the state. The primary benefactors will be the dairy, grain, forestry, and poultry industries. MDA requests your consideration of a favorable report for HB 225.

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, MDA Director of Government Relations at Rachel.Jones2@maryland.gov or (667) 408-0134.

MDFB - Support - HB225 - Vehicle Laws - Exceptiona

Uploaded by: Tyler Hough

Position: FAV



Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-922-3426 | www.mdfarmbureau.com

February 4, 2025

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of HB225 - Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB225 Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products. This legislation would create exceptional hauling permits up to 88K lbs. GVW for field loaded farm products.

This legislation provides significant benefits to those transporting milk, poultry, and grain, particularly during peak seasonal demands. These agricultural products are often loaded directly in the field, where access to a scale may be unavailable. The issuance of exceptional hauling permits offers necessary flexibility, ensuring compliance even when precise weight measurements cannot be immediately verified.

By increasing weight limits, the legislation reduces the number of trips each truck must take, leading to a decrease in the total number of trucks on the road. This, in turn, results in lower annual mileage, reduced fuel consumption, and fewer emissions, contributing to both economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. Additionally, fewer trucks on the road can lead to less wear and tear on infrastructure, ultimately benefiting road maintenance efforts.

Moreover, these permits align state weight standards with those of neighboring states, facilitating smoother interstate commerce and reducing logistical barriers for haulers transporting agricultural goods across state lines. By promoting efficiency, sustainability, and regional consistency, this legislation supports both the agricultural and transportation sectors.

Maryland Farm Bureau Supports HB225

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions

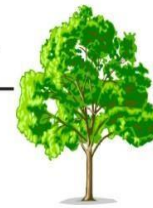
AFI's Testimony - Support of House Bill 225.pdf

Uploaded by: william miles

Position: FAV



ASSOCIATION OF FOREST INDUSTRIES, INC.



P.O. Box 501
Huntingtown, Maryland 20639

February 6, 2025

THE HONORABLE MARC KORMAN, CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE MEMBERS, HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 225 VEHICLE LAWS -- EXCEPTIONAL HAULING PERMIT – FARM PRODUCTS SUPPORT

The Association of Forest Industries (AFI) represents Maryland's forest products industry at both the State and local government level. For the last 2 years, AFI has been working closely with the Moore Administration on this issue. We commend the Administration for its willingness to submit House Bill 225 for consideration by the 2025 Maryland General Assembly.

Bill Miles, Advocate (billmilesmd@comcast.net).

Enactment of House Bill 225 would strengthen the competitive standing of Maryland's forest industry with its counterparts in neighboring states. In those states, haulers of forest material from the field to the processors can carry more weight than Maryland haulers under existing State law.

At present when hauling forested materials from the field to the processors, the following represent regional-statutorily authorized hauling weights in comparison to Maryland: (1) Maryland @ 88,000 pounds with tolerance on six axles; (2) Virginia @ 90,000 pounds with 5 axles; (3) Delaware @ 90,000 pounds with five or more axels; and (4) Pennsylvania @ 95,000 pounds with a five axles or 107,000 pounds with six axles.



Closure of the Luke Paper Mill in Luke, Maryland in June 2019 after 131 years of operation, resulted in the loss of 675 jobs. To help mitigate the impact and help ensure the continued viability of Maryland's forest industry, a study was undertaken by the Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council, aka "Maryland Economic Adjustment Strategy" in 2021. House Bill 225 is in lock step with the findings/recommendations of the 2021 EAS study.

<https://www.wmrcd.org/economic-adjustment-strategy-for-mds-forest-products-sector-summary-document-available-now/>

For the record, not since enactment of Maryland's nationally acclaimed **Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009** has – in the opinion of AFI – the General Assembly addressed an issue of such importance as House Bill 225. Notably, this historic Act declared the nexus between a sustainably managed forest – primary job of the forest industry via Best Management Practices (BMP's) – and a healthy Chesapeake Bay watershed. In many, many ways, trees are the answer.

§ 5-102 of NR underscores this healthy forest/healthy Chesapeake Bay watershed nexus:

THIS TITLE SETS FORTH MARYLAND'S VISION FOR SUSTAINING MARYLAND'S COVETED FOREST LANDS INTO THE 21ST CENTURY THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CHESAPEAKE 2000 AGREEMENT AND THE 2007 FORESTRY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE.

https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2009rs/chapters_noln/Ch_175_sb0549T.pdf