

HOUSE BILL 1000

R6
HB 486/16 – ENV

7lr2574

By: **Delegates Reilly, Adams, Arentz, Aumann, Carozza, Cassilly, Ghrist, Glass,
Hornberger, Jacobs, Mautz, W. Miller, Otto, Parrott, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2017

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; 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 2016 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.

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

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

21 (3) “Tandem axle weight” means the total weight transmitted to the road
22 by 2 or more consecutive axles whose centers may be included between parallel vertical

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 planes spaced more than 40 inches apart but not more than 96 inches apart extending
 2 across the full width of the vehicle.

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

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

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

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

$$\begin{array}{l}
 11 \qquad \qquad \qquad (\qquad \qquad \qquad LN \qquad \qquad \qquad) \\
 12 \quad W = 500 \quad (\quad \frac{\qquad \qquad \qquad}{\qquad \qquad \qquad} \quad + \quad 12N \quad + \quad 36 \quad) \\
 13 \qquad \qquad \qquad (\qquad \qquad \qquad N - 1 \qquad \qquad \qquad)
 \end{array}$$

14 where “W” = overall gross weight on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles to the nearest
 15 500 pounds, “L” = distance in feet measured horizontally between the vertical centerlines
 16 of the extreme of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles, and “N” = number of axles in
 17 group under consideration, except that 2 consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross
 18 load of 34,000 pounds each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles
 19 of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided, that such overall gross
 20 weight may not exceed eighty thousand (80,000) pounds, including any enforcement or
 21 statutory tolerances.

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

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 24 | Distance in | | | | | | |
| 25 | feet between | | | | | | |
| 26 | the extremes of | | | | | | |
| 27 | any group of 2 | | | | | | |
| 28 | or more | | | | | | |
| 29 | consecutive | | | | | | |
| 30 | axles | 2 axles | 3 axles | 4 axles | 5 axles | 6 axles | 7 axles |
| 31 | 4 | 34,000 | | | | | |
| 32 | 5 | 34,000 | | | | | |
| 33 | 6 | 34,000 | | | | | |
| 34 | 7 | 34,000 | | | | | |
| 35 | 8 | | | | | | |
| 36 | and less | 34,000 | 34,000 | | | | |
| 37 | More than | | | | | | |
| 38 | 8 | 38,000 | 42,000 | | | | |

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

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| | | | |
|---|----|--------|--------|
| 1 | 51 | 76,000 | 80,000 |
| 2 | 52 | 76,500 | |
| 3 | 53 | 77,500 | |
| 4 | 54 | 78,000 | |
| 5 | 55 | 78,500 | |
| 6 | 56 | 79,500 | |
| 7 | 57 | 80,000 | |

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

| 10 | | Gross |
|----|--|-------------|
| 11 | Number of | weight |
| 12 | axles | (in pounds) |
| 13 | Three or less | 55,000 |
| 14 | Four | 66,000 |
| 15 | Five as provided for in § 13–916 or § 13–923 of this | |
| 16 | article | 80,000 |

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

19 (g) (1) Except on interstate highways, a single unit vehicle with 3 axles, or a
20 combination of vehicles with a trailer less than 32 feet long or a semitrailer less than 45
21 feet long, either registered as a farm vehicle or carrying farm products as defined under §
22 10–601 of the Agriculture Article that were loaded in fields or other off–highway locations,
23 is permitted an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[5 percent]~~ **5%** from subsections (c) and (d) of
24 this section, except during harvest time when an axle load limit tolerance of ~~[15 percent]~~
25 **15% OR, SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A GROSS VEHICLE**
26 **WEIGHT TOLERANCE OF 10%** from subsections (c) and (d) of this section is permitted for
27 a vehicle carrying the following agricultural products:

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

32 (2) **THE HARVEST TIME GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT TOLERANCE**
33 **OF 10% UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A VEHICLE**
34 **TRAVELING WITHIN 150 MILES OF THE FIELD OR OTHER OFF–HIGHWAY LOCATION**
35 **WHERE THE VEHICLE WAS LOADED.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
27 1, 2017.