

# HOUSE BILL 508

R2

11r0099

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By: **Chair, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Police)**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2011

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Axle Load Limitations**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a certain requirement relating to the measurement of  
4 the distance between coupled axles for purposes of applying certain weight  
5 limitations; repealing certain weight limitations on coupled axles; altering the  
6 determination of a certain limitation on the gross weight imposed on the ground  
7 surface by the wheels on the front axle of a vehicle combination; repealing a  
8 certain exception related to the determination of rated load capacities of tires  
9 for purposes of a certain gross weight limitation; making conforming changes;  
10 and generally relating to vehicle weight and load limits of axles.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Transportation  
13 Section 24–108  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 24–108.

20 (a) [For purposes of this section, the distance between coupled axles  
21 (commonly known as “tandem” axles) shall be measured horizontally between their  
22 centerlines.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b)] (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the gross weight  
 2 imposed on the ground surface by the wheels of an axle or axles of a vehicle may not  
 3 exceed the following limits:

4 [(I) Combination Vehicles] SINGLE AXLE WEIGHT			
5 [No. of Axles]	Registered Gross	Gross	
	Weight of Vehicle	Maximum	
	[Combination]	Weight	
	(in Pounds)	(in Pounds)	
9 Single axle	73,000 or less	22,400	
10 Single axle	More than 73,000	20,000	
11 [Coupled axle	73,000 or less	36,000	
12 Coupled axle	More than 73,000	34,000	
13 (II) Single Unit Vehicles			
14 No. of Axles	Axle Distances	Gross	
15	Specification	Maximum	
16		Weight	
17		(in Pounds)	
18 Single axle		22,400	
19 Coupled axles	Axles spaced less than 48	36,000	
20	inches apart		
21 Coupled axles	Axles spaced 48 inches or	40,000]	
22	more apart		

23 (2) Except for vehicles operated under a permit issued under § 24–112  
 24 of this subtitle, the gross weight imposed on the ground surface by the wheels of a  
 25 front axle of a vehicle combination may not exceed either the lesser of:

26 (i) The sum of the rated load capacities for each tire on the  
 27 axle, except as provided in subsection [(c)] (B) of this section; or

28 (ii) The sum of the rated load capacities indicated by the  
 29 manufacturer as to each tire on the axle with which the vehicle [originally was] IS  
 30 CURRENTLY equipped[, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section].

31 (3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this  
 32 paragraph, any vehicle with a gross maximum weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may  
 33 travel only on State highways, except while making a delivery or pickup, and then  
 34 only when traveling by the shortest available legal route to or from the State highway  
 35 for the purpose of making such delivery or pickup. In Baltimore City, the shortest  
 36 available legal route shall be only on designated truck routes.

37 (ii) If approved by the local governing body and the State  
 38 Highway Administration, in Dorchester County, a vehicle with a gross maximum  
 39 weight in excess of 73,000 pounds may use the Linkwood Road when traveling  
 40 between East New Market and Linkwood.

1 (iii) 1. The County Commissioners of Garrett County may,  
2 by ordinance, establish the authorized gross maximum weight of a vehicle that:

3 A. Has at least 6 axles;

4 B. Is a truck tractor and semitrailer combination; and

5 C. Is using any part of Table Rock Road and Wilson Run  
6 Road in Garrett County that is owned and maintained by the county.

7 2. The gross maximum weight established under this  
8 subparagraph may not exceed 87,000 pounds.

9 **[(c)] (B)** Except on interstate highways, a vehicle carrying farm products as  
10 defined under § 10–601 of the Agriculture Article or forest products that have been  
11 loaded in fields or other off-highway locations is permitted an axle load limit tolerance  
12 of 10 percent.

13 **[(d)] (C)** (1) In Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County, garbage  
14 and refuse trucks that make collections on a fixed route and are owned by or doing  
15 business with any governmental entity in the respective county are permitted rear  
16 axle load limit tolerances of 10 percent if:

17 (i) The overweight is due to bad weather; and

18 (ii) The truck does not exceed its registered gross weight limit.

19 (2) A privately owned truck is permitted this tolerance only while  
20 actually engaged in the business of the governmental entity.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2011.