

CHAPTER 395

(Senate Bill 417)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 14-102 of Article 66-1/2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "14. Size, Weight and Load," to provide that safety equipment installed on certain vehicles shall not be included in the overall maximum width limitations imposed on such vehicles, and to correct certain language therein.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 14-102 of Article 66-1/2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "14. Size, Weight and Load," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

14-102.

(a) No vehicle, other than farm equipment and implements of husbandry, in excess of 96 inches in width, **EXCLUSIVE OF APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT**, including the load thereof, except traction engines and any load of forage crops in connection with harvesting operations where the distance of hauling is less than 5 miles on highways of the State, shall be operated on any highway in this State, and no traction engine in excess of 100 inches in width, **EXCLUSIVE OF APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT**, shall be operated on any highway, without the special permission of the State [Roads Commission] **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION** in the case of a road under its jurisdiction, or the permission of the city authorities in the case of a city street, or the permission of the county authorities in the case of a county highway. Provided, however, that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the operation upon any street or highway in this State, of a motor vehicle loaded with tobacco hogsheads and having an overall width when loaded not in excess of 103 inches, **EXCLUSIVE OF APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT**. Providing further that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the operation upon any street or highway in this State of farm equipment, implements of husbandry, or motor vehicles transporting farm equipment or implements of husbandry.

(b) Incorporated cities, towns, and municipalities may by ordinance permit the operation within their respective jurisdiction of any motor bus with a maximum outside width of not to exceed 102 inches, **EXCLUSIVE OF APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT**.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the operation of passenger buses upon the highways of this State which are designated as the State primary system, but not to include those highways which are part of the national system of interstate and defense highways, having an overall width of 102 inches, exclusive of **APPROVED** safety equipment. If federal law and regulations thereunder permit the operation of passenger buses of widths in excess of 96 inches, **EXCLUSIVE OF APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT**, on the national system of interstate and defense highways, the State [Roads Commission, by special or general order,] **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION** may permit the operation of passenger buses having an overall width of 102 inches, exclusive of **APPROVED** safety equipment, on the federal interstate and defense highways.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.