

(3) THE COMMISSION BY REGULATION SHALL ADOPT
PROCEDURES TO ASSURE EXPEDITIOUS DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS
FILED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1984.

May 29, 1984

The Honorable Melvin A. Steinberg
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 931.

This bill increases the permitted gross weight of a nonfreight trailer or semitrailer designed for towing by a Class A (passenger) vehicle, a Class M (multipurpose) vehicle, or Class E (truck) vehicle from 10,000 pounds to 20,000 pounds and makes certain corresponding registration fee adjustments. It also alters the definition of "commercial motor vehicle" to exclude certain trucks with a registered or operating gross combination weight of 40,000 pounds or less so that such vehicles are not subject to the road tax on motor carriers.

With respect to the change in the definition of "commercial vehicle", House Bill 530, which was signed by me on May 29, 1984, accomplishes, among other things, the same purpose. I have been informed by the Department of Transportation that extremely hazardous and unsafe operating conditions on the State's highway system would result if passenger vehicles and multipurpose vehicles were permitted to tow trailers weighing up to 20,000 pounds. Some safety concerns include increased braking distance, swaying, breakdowns, poor headlight directional aim, decreased maneuverability, and inability to maintain a safe speed.

These safety problems could be minimized if the application of increased trailer weight were to be limited to instances in which a Class E vehicle is the towing vehicle. I have been advised that the original intent in introducing the legislation was to permit an increase in trailer weight only if a Class E vehicle were the towing vehicle. I understand that legislation accomplishing that purpose will be introduced during the 1985 Session of the General Assembly and my Administration will support its passage.