

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

Article – Transportation

24-106.1.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Loose material" includes:

(i) Dirt, sand, gravel, wood chips, or other material that can blow, fall, or spill from a vehicle as a result of movement or of exposure to air, wind, or weather; and

(ii) Any other kind of material that can blow, fall, or spill, as specified in rules and regulations adopted by the Administrator; and

(2) "Loose material" does not include agricultural products, INCLUDING SOD, in their natural state.

(b) A person may not, in violation of this section, carry any loose material in any vehicle on or across any highway in this State.

(c) A person may not, in violation of this section, load any loose material for carrying in any vehicle on or across any highway in this State.

(d) (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the bed of the vehicle carrying a load of loose material shall be fully enclosed:

(i) On both sides, by sideboards or sidepanels;

(ii) On the front, by a board or panel or by the cab of the vehicle; and

(iii) On the rear, by a tailgate, board, or panel.

(2) (i) The enclosures required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be constructed so as to prevent any part of the load from blowing, falling, or spilling out of the vehicle.

(ii) No part of the load touching any of these enclosures may be within 6 inches of the top of the part of the enclosure that it touches, unless the load is covered with a firmly secured canvas or similar type covering.

(iii) If the vehicle manufacturer's original design specifications for bed enclosures have been altered to increase the vehicle's load capacity, no part of the load touching any of these enclosures may be within 6 inches of the top of the part of the enclosure that it touches and the highest point of the load may not be higher than any of these enclosures, unless the load is covered with a canvas or other type cover approved by the Administration that is secured as provided in subsection (e)(3) of this section.

(3) This subsection does not apply to:

(i) Any load-carrying vehicle with a compartment that fully encloses the load; or