Preamble

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to allow a semitrailer (single), when operating in combination with a truck tractor, to exceed 48 feet in length up to a length of 53 feet, but only under the standards and restrictions enumerated in this Act; and

WHEREAS, While most states uniformly allow the operation of semitrailer combinations up to 53 feet on their highways, the General Assembly and the State Highway Administration have determined that particular safety risks are posed by semitrailer combinations exceeding 48 feet in length; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly and the State Highway Administration have determined that the standards and restrictions enumerated in this Act are based on comprehensive safety studies of the operation of longer vehicle combinations and are intended to ensure the safe operation of semitrailer combinations that exceed 48 feet in length, while operating on Maryland's highways; now, therefore,

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

Article – Transportation

24–104.2.

(A)   NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, AND SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (B), (C), AND (D) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY OPERATE A SEMITRAILER (SINGLE) IN COMBINATION WITH A TRUCK TRACTOR THAT EXCEEDS 48 FEET IN LENGTH UP TO A LENGTH NOT TO EXCEED 53 FEET.

(B)   (1)   A VEHICLE COMBINATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE OPERATED ONLY ON:

(I)   THOSE PARTS OF THE NATIONAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND THOSE STATE SYSTEMS OF HIGHWAYS THAT ARE DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH EITHER THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY OR WICOMICO COUNTY, OR THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE CITY, OR THEIR DESIGNEES, AS APPROPRIATE;

(II) EXCEPT IN BALTIMORE CITY, A HIGHWAY, AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY, THAT IS THE SHORTEST PRACTICAL ACCESS ROUTE BETWEEN A HIGHWAY DESIGNATED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND:

1.   A TRUCK TERMINAL;

2.   A PORT;

3.   A POINT OF ORIGIN OR DESTINATION; OR