

By: Representative Johnson

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1340

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS TO THE MAXIMUM WHEEL AND AXLE LOAD
3 LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES HAULING SOLID WASTE; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 63-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 63-5-27. (1) Subject to the maximum gross single axle or
9 tandem axle weights hereinafter specified, the gross single or
10 tandem axle weights shall not exceed five hundred fifty (550)
11 pounds per inch of tire width. The gross weight on any single or
12 tandem axle thus derived shall be subject to a tolerance not in
13 excess of five hundred (500) pounds provided that the total
14 allowable gross weight of the single or tandem axle shall not
15 exceed the maximum limitations allowed hereinafter.

16 (2) The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of
17 any one (1) single axle of a vehicle shall not exceed twenty
18 thousand (20,000) pounds exclusive of the tolerance provided in
19 Section 63-5-33. A single axle shall be defined as an assembly of
20 two (2) or more wheels whose centers are in one (1) transverse
21 vertical plane or may be included between two (2) parallel
22 transverse vertical planes forty (40) inches apart extending
23 across the full width of the vehicle.

24 (3) The gross weight imposed on the highway by any tandem
25 axle shall not exceed thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds
26 exclusive of the tolerance provided in Section 63-5-33. A tandem
27 axle shall be defined as any two (2) or more consecutive axles

28 whose centers are more than forty (40) inches but not more than
29 ninety-six (96) inches apart. No one (1) axle of any such group
30 of two (2) or more consecutive axles shall exceed the weight
31 permitted for a single axle.

32 (4) (a) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
33 transport concrete products and which are not available for
34 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and
35 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi shall not be made
36 to conform to the axle spacing requirements or axle or tire
37 loadings of this section or to the total combined weights as set
38 out in Section 63-5-33 in Table III, provided (i) that such
39 vehicles shall be limited to a gross weight of sixty thousand
40 (60,000) pounds; (ii) that such vehicles shall only be operated
41 within fifty (50) miles of their home base; (iii) that any such
42 vehicles shall be limited to a maximum load of the rated capacity
43 of the vehicle; (iv) that all such vehicles shall have at least
44 three (3) axles; and (v) that all vehicles with only three (3)
45 axles shall have all wheels brake-equipped. Any two (2) or more
46 axles close enough to be considered an axle group shall be
47 suspended by an equalizing system and be spaced a minimum of four
48 (4) feet apart in order to be eligible for the maximum load as
49 provided in this subsection. It shall be a violation if vehicles
50 to which this subsection applies travel upon any federal
51 interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated and
52 posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Transportation
53 Commission, a board of supervisors, or municipal governing
54 authorities as provided in subsection (5) or (6) of this section.

55 (b) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
56 transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin shall not be
57 made to conform to the axle spacing or axle or tire loadings of
58 this section. However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a
59 gross weight of sixty thousand (60,000) pounds; (ii) may be
60 operated only within a fifty (50) miles radius of their home base
61 or their contractual customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum
62 load of the rated capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all
63 wheels brake equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon
64 any federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges

65 designated and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the
66 Mississippi Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors
67 or municipal governing authorities as provided in subsection (5)
68 or (6) of this section.

69 (c) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
70 collect and transport solid waste and which are not available for
71 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and
72 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi, shall not be made
73 to conform to the axle spacing or tire loadings of this section.
74 However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a gross weight of
75 eighty-four thousand (84,000) pounds; (ii) may be operated only
76 within a fifty (50) mile radius of their home base or their
77 contractual customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum load of
78 the rated capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all wheels
79 brake-equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon any
80 federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated
81 and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Mississippi
82 Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors or the
83 governing authorities of a municipality as provided in subsections
84 (5) or (6) of this section.

85 (5) The board of supervisors of any county or the governing
86 authorities of any municipality, by appropriate resolution, may
87 impose limitations more restrictive than those permitted in this
88 section upon the county highways of such county or the streets of
89 such municipality.

90 (6) The Mississippi Department of Transportation, for cause,
91 may post or limit any road or bridge to weights less than those
92 permitted by this section.

93 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
94 and after July 1, 1999.