

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2549

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN VEHICLES USED TO TRANSPORT CRANES AND HEAVY
3 LIFTING EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING MOBILE CRANES, SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM
4 THE MAXIMUM AXLE SPACING AND TIRE LOADING RESTRICTIONS FOR
5 HIGHWAYS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

25 (3) The gross weight imposed on the highway by any tandem
26 axle shall not exceed thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds
27 exclusive of the tolerance provided in Section 63-5-33. A tandem

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

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

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

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

70 (c) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
71 collect and transport solid waste and which are not available for
72 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and
73 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi, shall not be made
74 to conform to the axle spacing or tire loadings of this section.
75 However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a gross weight of
76 sixty thousand (60,000) pounds; (ii) may be operated only within a
77 fifty-mile radius of their home base or their contractual
78 customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum load of the rated
79 capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all wheels
80 brake-equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon any
81 federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated
82 and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Mississippi
83 Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors or the
84 governing authorities of a municipality as provided in subsection
85 (5) or (6) of this section.

86 (d) Vehicles transporting cranes and heavy lifting
87 equipment, including mobile cranes manufactured and designed as a
88 single unit and intended to be operated over roads and highways,
89 shall be exempt from the axle spacing and tire loadings of this
90 section. However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a gross
91 weight of one hundred thousand (100,000) pounds; (ii) shall be
92 limited to a maximum load of the rated capacity of that vehicle;
93 (iii) shall have all wheels brake equipped; and (iv) are
94 prohibited from traveling upon any federal interstate highway or
95 upon any roads or bridges designated and posted as incapable of
96 carrying such loads by the Mississippi Department of
97 Transportation, a board of supervisors or the governing

98 authorities of a municipality as provided in subsections (5) and
99 (6) of this section.

100 (5) The board of supervisors of any county or the governing
101 authorities of any municipality, by appropriate resolution, may
102 impose limitations more restrictive than those permitted in this
103 section upon the county highways of such county or the streets of
104 such municipality.

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

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