

By: Dearing

To: Highways and  
TransportationSENATE BILL NO. 2592  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO DEFINE THE TERM RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND MOTOR HOMES FOR  
3 PURPOSES OF THE "UNIFORM HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION LAW-RULES OF  
4 THE ROAD"; TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
5 PROVIDE THAT APPURTENANCES ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES SHALL BE  
6 ALLOWED IF THEY ARE INSIDE THE EXTERIOR REARVIEW MIRRORS OF THE  
7 VEHICLE OR THE VEHICLE TOWING THE RECREATIONAL VEHICLE; TO AMEND  
8 SECTION 63-5-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO LIMIT THE OVERALL  
9 LENGTH OF MOTOR HOMES, EXCLUSIVE OF BUMPERS, TO 45 FEET; TO AMEND  
10 SECTION 63-5-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE  
11 MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO  
12 ISSUE PERMITS FOR THE COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES  
13 AND MOTOR HOMES THAT COMPLY WITH VEHICLE WIDTH REQUIREMENTS; AND  
14 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

16 SECTION 1. Section 63-3-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
17 amended as follows:[WAN1]

18 63-3-103 (a) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by  
19 which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn  
20 upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary  
21 rails or tracks.

22 (b) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is  
23 self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric  
24 power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon  
25 rails.

26 (c) "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a saddle  
27 for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than  
28 three (3) wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a  
29 tractor.

30 (d) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means every vehicle of  
31 the fire department (fire patrol), every police vehicle, and every  
32 such ambulance and emergency vehicle of municipal departments or

33 public service corporations as is designated or authorized by the  
34 commission or the chief of police of an incorporated city.

35 (e) "School bus" means every motor vehicle operated for the  
36 transportation of children to or from any school, provided same is  
37 plainly marked "School Bus" on the front and rear thereof and  
38 meets the requirements of the State Board of Education as  
39 authorized under Section 37-41-1.

40 (f) "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicular type unit  
41 primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational,  
42 camping or travel use, which either has its own motive power or is  
43 mounted on or drawn by another vehicle and includes travel  
44 trailers, fifth wheel trailers, camping trailers, truck campers  
45 and motor homes.

46 (g) "Motor home" means a motor vehicle that is designed and  
47 constructed primarily to provide temporary living quarters for  
48 recreational, camping or travel use.

49 SECTION 2. Section 63-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
50 amended as follows:[WAN2]

51 63-5-13. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
52 the total outside width of any vehicle, exclusive of required  
53 safety devices, or the load thereon shall not exceed eight and  
54 one-half (8-1/2) feet; provided, however, that appurtenances on  
55 recreational vehicles shall be allowed so long as they are inside  
56 the exterior rearview mirrors of the recreational vehicle or  
57 inside the exterior rearview mirrors of the vehicle towing the  
58 recreational vehicle, and such mirrors do not extend further than  
59 necessary to obtain the appropriate field of view.

60 (2) The total outside load width of any vehicle hauling  
61 unprocessed forest products on public roads, streets or highways,  
62 other than interstate highways, shall not exceed nine and one-half  
63 (9-1/2) feet if such products may not be shortened without  
64 rendering them useless for the end product for which they were  
65 cut; provided, however, the total outside vehicle width of such a  
66 vehicle, exclusive of required safety devices and the load of such  
67 vehicle, shall not exceed eight and one-half (8-1/2) feet.

68 (3) The total outside width of a farm tractor shall not  
69 exceed ten (10) feet, except that farm tractors shall not be

70 operated upon the interstate highways without a special permit  
71 from the State Highway Commission.

72 SECTION 3. Section 63-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
73 amended as follows:[WAN3]

74 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
75 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall  
76 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty  
77 (40) feet.

78 (2) No semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer  
79 combination and no trailer drawn by a motor vehicle shall exceed a  
80 length of fifty (50) feet.

81 (3) No semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck  
82 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination and no trailer operating  
83 in a double trailer combination drawn by a motor vehicle shall  
84 exceed a length of thirty (30) feet.

85 (4) No semitrailer or trailer combinations in excess of two  
86 (2) units, excluding the towing motor vehicle, shall be allowed to  
87 operate on the highways of this state.

88 (5) No motor home shall have an overall length exclusive of  
89 front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty-five (45) feet.

90 (6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of  
91 vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their  
92 natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet  
93 beyond the rear axle of the vehicle except in the special  
94 circumstance hereinafter prescribed. If such products project  
95 more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle and, due to  
96 the end use for which they are intended (such as tall utility  
97 poles or light poles or the like), such products cannot be  
98 shortened without rendering them useless for the finished product  
99 for which they have been cut, then such special circumstance may  
100 be considered good cause for the obtaining of a permit which shall  
101 be procured pursuant to Section 63-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
102 before vehicles transporting such products may operate. Any

103 vehicle transporting projecting loads as described in this  
104 subsection shall operate only during daylight hours, and the load  
105 on vehicles designed to transport forestry products shall be  
106 secured by at least two (2) chains, two (2) wire ropes, or two (2)  
107 nylon straps, one (1) positioned behind the front bolster and one  
108 (1) in front of the back bolster.

109 SECTION 4. Section 63-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
110 amended as follows:[WAN4]

111 63-5-51. (1) (a) The Mississippi Transportation Commission  
112 with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and local  
113 authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may,  
114 in their discretion, upon application in writing and good cause  
115 being shown therefor, issue a special permit in writing  
116 authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle or  
117 combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load  
118 exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter or otherwise not  
119 in conformity with the provisions of this chapter upon any highway  
120 under the jurisdiction of the party granting such permit and for  
121 the maintenance of which said party is responsible.

122 (b) The application for any such permit shall  
123 specifically describe the general operation and load to be moved,  
124 and the particular highways for which the permit to operate is  
125 requested, and whether such permit is requested for a single trip,  
126 or for continuous operation.

127 (c) The Mississippi Transportation Commission or local  
128 authority is authorized to issue or withhold such permit at its  
129 discretion. If such permit is issued, the Mississippi  
130 Transportation Commission or local authority is authorized to  
131 limit the number of trips, or to establish seasonal or other time  
132 limitations within which the vehicles described may be operated on  
133 the highways indicated, or otherwise to limit or prescribe  
134 conditions of operation of such vehicle or vehicles, when  
135 necessary to assure against undue damage to the road foundations,

136 surfaces or structures. The Mississippi Transportation Commission  
137 or local authority may require such undertaking or other security  
138 as may be deemed necessary to compensate for any injury to any  
139 roadway or road structure.

140 (d) Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle  
141 or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to  
142 inspection by any police officer or authorized agent of any  
143 authority granting such permit, and no person shall violate any of  
144 the terms or conditions of such special permit. However, permits  
145 covering the number of vehicles anticipated in any operation may  
146 be issued by the commission.

147 (2) The Mississippi Transportation Commission or local  
148 authorities, in their discretion, upon application in writing and  
149 good cause being shown therefor, issue a permit authorizing the  
150 commercial movement of one or more recreational vehicles or motor  
151 homes which comply with the provisions of Section 63-5-13. Such  
152 permits shall be valid for one (1) year from the date they are  
153 issued. A copy of the permit shall be carried with all such  
154 vehicles while they are being moved. The provisions of subsection  
155 (1) of this section shall not apply to the commercial movement of  
156 vehicles under a permit issued pursuant to this subsection if such  
157 vehicles comply with Section 63-5-13.

158 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
159 and after July 1, 2000.