

By: Representative Compretta

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1134

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-23-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE SIZE LIMITATIONS FOR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGNS ALONG
3 CERTAIN STATE HIGHWAYS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 49-23-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 49-23-9. All signs as specified in subsections (d) and (e)
8 of Section 49-23-5 that are erected or maintained in business
9 areas shall comply with the following standards which are
10 consistent with customary use in the outdoor advertising business
11 in Mississippi:

12 (1) For sign structures erected after June 30, 2001, the
13 maximum area for any one (1) sign face shall be six hundred
14 seventy-two (672) square feet with a maximum height of fourteen
15 (14) feet and a maximum length of forty-eight (48) feet, inclusive
16 of any border and trim on the sign face, but excluding any
17 embellishment on an cut-out extension of the sign face, the base
18 or apron, supports and other structural members. For sign
19 structures lawfully in existence on or before June 30, 2001, the
20 maximum area for any one sign face shall be one thousand two
21 hundred (1,200) square feet. Any embellishment on or cut-out
22 extension of any sign face shall not exceed twenty percent (20%)
23 of the square footage of the sign face.

24 (2) The area of any sign face shall be measured by the
25 smallest square, rectangle, triangle or circle, or combination
26 thereof, which will encompass the entire sign.

27 (3) Sign structures erected after June 30, 2001, may contain
28 one (1) or two (2) signs per face and may use only a side-by-side,
29 back-to-back or V-type configuration, and may use no other
30 configuration; however, if two (2) signs are used facing the same
31 direction, the aggregate total area shall not exceed six hundred
32 seventy-two (672) square feet. Sign structures lawfully in
33 existence on or before June 30, 2001, may contain one (1) or two
34 (2) signs per face and may be placed double-faced, back-to-back or
35 V-type; however, if two (2) signs are used facing the same
36 direction, the aggregate total area shall not exceed one thousand
37 two hundred (1,200) square feet.

38 (4) All illuminated outdoor signs or other advertising
39 devices shall be so illuminated as to adhere to the customary
40 practices of the industry in Mississippi at the time of passage of
41 Sections 49-23-1 through 49-23-29, providing that no lighting
42 devices shall be used which in any way imitate any traffic control
43 device, railroad sign or signal, or highway directional signs.

44 (5) All outdoor signs and other advertising devices located
45 within one-half (1/2) mile of an intersection of two (2) or more
46 primary highways, or a primary highway and the Great River Road,
47 or an interchange on the interstate system shall be erected and/or
48 maintained with a minimum spacing between structures of two
49 hundred fifty (250) feet, unless separated by another commercial
50 building or structure, other than outdoor advertising, in which
51 case outdoor advertising may be permitted on one (1) or more sides
52 of building or buildings.

53 (6) No two (2) signs shall be spaced less than three hundred
54 fifty (350) feet apart, except as to signs in existence on October
55 22, 1965, which shall not be removed by Sections 49-23-1 through
56 49-23-29. However, this spacing limitation shall not apply to
57 areas within incorporated cities, towns, villages and in areas
58 zoned industrial or commercial.

59 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after July 1, 2001.