

By: Representatives Robinson (84th),  
Mitchell, Eaton

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1277

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT THE REAR AXLE OF TRAILER MOUNTED KNUCKLE BOOM LOG  
3 LOADERS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM CERTAIN TIRE LOADING LIMITATIONS; TO  
4 INCREASE THE GROSS WEIGHT LIMIT IMPOSED UPON THE HIGHWAY BY SUCH  
5 AN AXLE; 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) The rear axle of trailer mounted knuckle boom log  
87 loaders shall be exempt from the tire loading limitation provided  
88 for in subsection (3) of this section; however, the gross weight  
89 imposed on the highway by such an axle shall not exceed forty-one  
90 thousand (41,000) pounds.

91 (5) The board of supervisors of any county or the governing  
92 authorities of any municipality, by appropriate resolution, may  
93 impose limitations more restrictive than those permitted in this

94 section upon the county highways of such county or the streets of  
95 such municipality.

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

99 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
100 and after its passage.