HOUSE BILL NO. 1277

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE REAR AXLE OF TRAILER MOUNTED KNUCKLE BOOM LOADERS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM CERTAIN TIRE LOADING LIMITATIONS; TO INCREASE THE GROSS WEIGHT LIMIT IMPOSED UPON THE HIGHWAY BY SUCH AN AXLE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

(3) The gross weight imposed on the highway by any tandem axle shall not exceed thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds exclusive of the tolerance provided in Section 63-5-33. A tandem axle shall be defined as any two (2) or more consecutive axles
whose centers are more than forty (40) inches but not more than
ninety-six (96) inches apart. No one (1) axle of any such group
of two (2) or more consecutive axles shall exceed the weight
permitted for a single axle.

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

(b) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin shall not be
made to conform to the axle spacing or axle or tire loadings of
this section. However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a
gross weight of sixty thousand (60,000) pounds; (ii) may be
operated only within a fifty-mile radius of their home base or
their contractual customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum load of the rated capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all wheels brake-equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon any federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors or municipal governing authorities as provided in subsection (5) or (6) of this section.

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

(d) The rear axle of trailer mounted knuckle boom log loaders shall be exempt from the tire loading limitation provided for in subsection (3) of this section; however, the gross weight imposed on the highway by such an axle shall not exceed forty-one thousand (41,000) pounds.

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

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

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