

By: Senator(s) Dearing (By Request)

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2740

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-5-19, 63-5-21 AND 63-7-47,  
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS WHICH  
3 RESTRICT THE MAXIMUM LENGTH THAT THE LOAD UPON THE REAR VEHICLE OF  
4 A COMBINATION OF VEHICLES MAY PROJECT BEYOND THE REAR OF THE  
5 VEHICLE AT NIGHT, WHICH PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS TO SUCH LENGTH  
6 LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES IN EMERGENCY  
7 SITUATIONS, AND WHICH REQUIRE VEHICLES WITH PROJECTING LOADS OF  
8 FOUR FEET OR MORE TO DISPLAY A RED FLAG AT THE REAR OF THE LOAD;  
9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 63-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
14 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall  
15 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty  
16 (40) feet.

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

20 (3) No semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck  
21 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination and no trailer operating  
22 in a double trailer combination drawn by a motor vehicle shall  
23 exceed a length of thirty (30) feet.

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

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

29           (6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of  
30 vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their  
31 natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet  
32 beyond the rear axle of the vehicle except in the special  
33 circumstance hereinafter prescribed. If such products project  
34 more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle and, due to  
35 the end use for which they are intended (such as tall utility  
36 poles or light poles or the like), such products cannot be  
37 shortened without rendering them useless for the finished product  
38 for which they have been cut, then such special circumstance may  
39 be considered good cause for the obtaining of a permit which shall  
40 be procured pursuant to Section 63-5-51 before vehicles  
41 transporting such products may operate. Except as otherwise  
42 provided in Section 63-5-21, any vehicle transporting projecting  
43 loads that extend four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of  
44 the vehicle shall operate only during daylight hours, and the load  
45 on vehicles designed to transport forestry products shall be  
46 secured by at least two (2) chains, two (2) wire ropes, or two (2)  
47 nylon straps, one (1) positioned behind the front bolster and one  
48 (1) in front of the back bolster.

49           (7) The rear projecting load of any vehicle operating during  
50 the period described under Section 63-7-11 may not extend four (4)  
51 feet or more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle.

52           SECTION 2. Section 63-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
53 amended as follows:

54           63-5-21. The length limitations provided in Section 63-5-19  
55 shall not apply to vehicles \* \* \* operated at nighttime by a  
56 public utility transporting poles, pipes, machinery or other  
57 objects of a structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered  
58 when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or  
59 properties \* \* \*. However, in respect to such night  
60 transportation every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be  
61 equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both sides

62 and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to  
63 clearly mark the dimensions of such load.

64 SECTION 3. Section 63-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
65 amended as follows:

66 63-7-47. Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the  
67 rear four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of such  
68 vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the  
69 load \* \* \* a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen (16) inches  
70 square.

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