

By: Senator(s) Dearing (By Request)

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2740
(As Sent to Governor)

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 TO EXEMPT CERTAIN VEHICLES DESIGNED FOR ON-FARM DELIVERY OF
10 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE LENGTH LIMITATIONS ON PROJECTING
11 LOADS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

52 (7) Except as otherwise provided in Section 63-5-21, the
53 rear projecting load of any vehicle operating during the period
54 described under Section 63-7-11 may not extend four (4) feet or
55 more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle.

56 (8) The length limitations on projecting loads prescribed in
57 this section do not apply to a single vehicle or the rear vehicle
58 of a combination of vehicles designed for on-farm delivery and
59 unloading of any agricultural product, in its natural or
60 manufactured form, which is fitted with an auger or similar
61 unloading device permanently affixed to the vehicle that extends
62 no more than eight (8) feet horizontally beyond the rear or body
63 of the vehicle provided that no portion of such device which

64 extends four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the
65 vehicle is less than seven (7) feet above the roadway surface.
66 However, any such vehicle may not be operated on the public
67 highways, roads or streets of this state during the period
68 described under Section 63-7-11.

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

71 63-5-21. The length limitations provided in Section 63-5-19
72 shall not apply to vehicles * * * operated at nighttime by a
73 public utility transporting poles, pipes, machinery or other
74 objects of a structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered
75 when required for emergency repair of public service facilities or
76 properties * * *. However, in respect to such night
77 transportation every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be
78 equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both sides
79 and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to
80 clearly mark the dimensions of such load.

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

83 63-7-47. Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the
84 rear four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of such
85 vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the
86 load * * * a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen (16) inches
87 square.

88 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
89 and after July 1, 2001.