

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2929

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-23-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE SIZE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON CERTAIN SIGNS; AND FOR  
3 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 Section 49-23-5(d) and  
8 (e) erected or maintained in business areas shall comply with the  
9 following standards which are consistent with customary use in the  
10 outdoor advertising business in Mississippi:

11 (1) (a) For signs erected prior to July 1, 2001, the  
12 maximum size of any outdoor sign or other advertising device shall  
13 be one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet;

14 (b) For sign structures erected on or after July  
15 1, 2001, the maximum area for any one (1) sign face shall be six  
16 hundred seventy-two (672) square feet, the maximum height shall be  
17 fourteen (14) feet and the maximum length shall be forty-eight  
18 (48) feet, inclusive of any border and trim on the sign face, but  
19 excluding any embellishment on, and cut-out extension of, the sign  
20 face, the base or apron, supports and other structural members.  
21 Any embellishment on or cut-out extension of any sign face shall  
22 not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the square footage of such sign  
23 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 on or after July 1, 2001,  
28 may contain one (1) or two (2) signs per face and may use only a  
29 side-by-side, back-to-back or V-type configuration and no other;  
30 provided, however, that 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 prior to July 1, 2001, may contain one (1) or two (2)  
34 signs per face and may be placed double faced, back-to-back or  
35 V-type; provided, however, that if two (2) signs are used facing  
36 the same direction, the aggregate total area shall not exceed one  
37 thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet.

38           (4) Sign structures erected on or after July 1, 2002,  
39 may be mounted only upon a single steel pole or structure.

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

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

55           (7) No two (2) signs shall be spaced less than three  
56 hundred fifty (350) feet apart, except as to signs in existence on  
57 October 22, 1965, which shall not be removed by Sections 49-23-1  
58 through 49-23-29. However, this spacing limitation shall not

59 apply to areas within incorporated cities, towns, villages and in  
60 areas zoned industrial or commercial.

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