

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2929
(As Sent to Governor)

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 January 1, 2002,
12 the maximum size of any outdoor sign or other advertising device
13 shall be one thousand two hundred (1,200) square feet;

14 (b) For sign structures erected on or after
15 January 1, 2002, the maximum area for any one (1) sign face shall
16 be six hundred seventy-two (672) square feet, the maximum height
17 shall be fourteen (14) feet and the maximum length shall be
18 forty-eight (48) feet, inclusive of any border and trim on the
19 sign face, but excluding any embellishment on, and cut-out
20 extension of, the sign face, the base or apron, supports and other
21 structural members. Any embellishment on or cut-out extension of
22 any sign face shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the square
23 footage of such sign 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 January 1,
28 2002, may contain one (1) or two (2) signs per face and may use
29 only a side-by-side, back-to-back or V-type configuration and no
30 other; provided, however, that if two (2) signs are used facing
31 the same direction, the aggregate total area shall not exceed six
32 hundred seventy-two (672) square feet.

33 (4) All illuminated outdoor signs or other advertising
34 devices shall be so illuminated as to adhere to the customary
35 practices of the industry in Mississippi at the time of passage of
36 Sections 49-23-1 through 49-23-29. * * * No lighting devices
37 shall be used which in any way imitate any traffic control device,
38 railroad sign or signal, or highway directional signs.

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

48 (6) No two (2) signs shall be spaced less than three
49 hundred fifty (350) feet apart, except as to signs in existence on
50 October 22, 1965, which shall not be removed by Sections 49-23-1
51 through 49-23-29. However, this spacing limitation shall not
52 apply to areas within incorporated cities, towns, villages and in
53 areas zoned industrial or commercial.

54 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after January 1, 2002.