

By: Representative Fillingane

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 654

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-5-19 AND 63-7-47, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE VEHICLES HAVING A LOAD PROJECTING FOUR
3 FEET OR MORE BEYOND THE EXTREME REAR END OF THE VEHICLE TO BE
4 OPERATED AT NIGHT IF A RED LIGHT OR AMBER STROBE LIGHT IS
5 DISPLAYED AT THE EXTREME REAR END OF THE LOAD; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
11 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall
12 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty
13 (40) feet.

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

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

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

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

26 (6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of
27 vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their
28 natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet
29 beyond the rear axle of the vehicle except in the special



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

47 * * *

48 (7) The length limitations on projecting loads prescribed in
49 this section do not apply to a single vehicle or the rear vehicle
50 of a combination of vehicles designed for on-farm delivery and
51 unloading of any agricultural product, in its natural or
52 manufactured form, which is fitted with an auger or similar
53 unloading device permanently affixed to the vehicle that extends
54 no more than eight (8) feet horizontally beyond the rear or body
55 of the vehicle provided that no portion of such device which
56 extends four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the
57 vehicle is less than seven (7) feet above the roadway surface.
58 However, any such vehicle may not be operated on the public
59 highways, roads or streets of this state during the period
60 described under Section 63-7-11.

61 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
62 amended as follows:



63 63-7-47. Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the
64 rear four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of such
65 vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the
66 load, at the times specified in Section 63-7-11, a red light or
67 amber strobe light plainly visible from a distance of at least
68 five hundred (500) feet to the sides and rear. The red light or
69 amber strobe light required under this section is in addition to
70 the red light required upon every vehicle. At all other times
71 there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load
72 a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen (16) inches square.

73 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
74 and after July 1, 2002.

