MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION 2003  

By: Representative Straughter  
To: Transportation  

HOUSE BILL NO. 1154

1  AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-83, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE EVERY TRUCK HAVING A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF 10,000 POUNDS
3 OR MORE, EVERY TRAILER AND EVERY OTHER COMMERCIAL CARRIER OF
4 PROPERTY WITH AN OPEN TOP, WHILE TRAVELING UPON ANY PUBLIC
5 HIGHWAY, ROAD OR STREET IN THIS STATE, AND WHILE CARRYING ANY LOAD
6 OF SAND, DIRT, GRAVEL, ROCK, WOOD CHIPS OR OTHER NATURAL,
7 ARTIFICIAL OR SYNTHETIC PRODUCT HAVING A LIKELIHOOD OF FALLING OR
8 DISLODGING FROM OR BLOWING OUT OF THE VEHICLE TO BE EQUIPPED WITH
9 A TARPALIN, CANVAS OR OTHER SUCH TOP SECURED OVER THE TOP OF THE
10 LOAD; TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-89, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
11 CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO REPEAL SECTION
12 63-7-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES OPEN TOP
13 TRUCKS, TRAILERS AND CARRIERS OF VEHICLES HAULING SAND, DIRT,
14 GRAVEL OR ROCKS TO USE SIDEBOARDS IN LIEU OF TARPALINS TO COVER
15 THEIR LOAD WHEN TRAVELING UPON STATE AND FEDERAL HIGHWAYS; AND FOR
16 RELATED PURPOSES.
17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
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SECTION 1. Section 63-7-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
20 amended as follows:
21 63-7-83. Every truck having a gross vehicle weight of ten
22 thousand (10,000) pounds or more, every trailer and every other
23 commercial carrier of property with an open top, while traveling
24 upon any public highway, road or street in this state, * * * and
25 while carrying any load of sand, dirt, gravel, rock, wood chips or
26 other natural, artificial or synthetic product having a likelihood
27 of falling or dislodging from or blowing out of the vehicle shall
28 be equipped with a tarpaulin, canvas or other such top * * *
29 secured over the top of the load * * *.
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SECTION 2. Section 63-7-89, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
31 amended as follows:
32 63-7-89. Any person, firm or corporation convicted for a
33 violation of * * * Section 63-7-85, is guilty of a misdemeanor
34 and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than Twenty-five
Dollars ($25.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) for each separate and distinct violation.

SECTION 3. Section 63-7-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, which authorizes open top trucks, trailers and carriers of vehicles hauling sand, dirt, gravel or rocks to use sideboards in lieu of tarpaulins to cover their load when traveling upon state and federal highways, is repealed.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.