

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2531

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCREASE FROM 50 FEET TO 53 FEET THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LENGTH OF  
3 SEMITRAILERS OPERATING IN A TRUCK TRACTOR-SEMITRAILER COMBINATION  
4 AND TRAILERS DRAWN BY A MOTOR VEHICLE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
9 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall  
10 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty  
11 (40) feet.

12 (2) No semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer  
13 combination and no trailer drawn by a motor vehicle shall exceed a  
14 length of fifty-three (53) feet.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



62           (9) A vehicle designed and especially constructed to  
63 transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin may have a  
64 total overall length not to exceed fifty (50) feet whenever any  
65 such vehicle is being operated within a radius of fifty (50) miles  
66 of the vehicle's home base or its contractual customer.

67           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
68 and after July 1, 2003.

