MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2003

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2531
(As Sent to Governor)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle of the vehicle except in the special circumstance hereinafter prescribed. If such products project...
more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle and, due to
the end use for which they are intended (such as tall utility
poles or light poles or the like), such products cannot be
shortened without rendering them useless for the finished product
for which they have been cut, then such special circumstance may
be considered good cause for the obtaining of a permit which shall
be procured pursuant to Section 63-5-51 before vehicles
transporting such products may operate. Except as otherwise
provided in Section 63-5-21, any vehicle transporting projecting
loads as described in this subsection that extend four (4) feet or
more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle shall operate only
during daylight hours, and the load on vehicles designed to
transport forestry products shall be secured by at least two (2)
chains, two (2) wire ropes, or two (2) nylon straps, one (1)
positioned behind the front bolster and one (1) in front of the
back bolster.

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

(8) The length limitations on projecting loads prescribed in
this section do not apply to a single vehicle or the rear vehicle
of a combination of vehicles designed for on-farm delivery and
unloading of any agricultural product, in its natural or
manufactured form, which is fitted with an auger or similar
unloading device permanently affixed to the vehicle that extends
no more than eight (8) feet horizontally beyond the rear or body
of the vehicle provided that no portion of such device which
extends four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the
vehicle is less than seven (7) feet above the roadway surface.
However, any such vehicle may not be operated on the public
highways, roads or streets of this state during the period
described under Section 63-7-11.
(9) A vehicle designed and especially constructed to transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin may have a total overall length not to exceed fifty (50) feet whenever any such vehicle is being operated within a radius of fifty (50) miles of the vehicle's home base or its contractual customer.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.