

By: Representative Stevens

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1531

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-501, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT VEHICLES LOADED WITH TIMBER OR ANY OTHER FORESTRY
3 PRODUCTS ON ANY PUBLIC ROAD, STREET OR HIGHWAY IN THIS STATE SHALL
4 NOT OPERATE AT A SPEED GREATER THAN TEN MILES PER HOUR LESS THAN
5 THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT FOR OTHER VEHICLES; TO AMEND SECTION
6 63-5-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR THE
7 OPERATION OF CERTAIN VEHICLES WITHOUT PROPERLY SECURING THEIR
8 LOADS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-3-501, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 63-3-501. No person shall operate a vehicle on the highways
13 of the state at a speed greater than sixty-five (65) miles per
14 hour.

15 The Mississippi Transportation Commission may, in its
16 discretion, by order duly entered on its minutes, increase the
17 speed restrictions on any portion of the Interstate Highway System
18 provided such speed restrictions are not increased to more than
19 seventy (70) miles per hour. The commission may likewise increase
20 the speed limit to seventy (70) miles per hour on controlled
21 access highways with four (4) or more lanes. However, vehicles
22 loaded with timber or any other forestry products on any public
23 road, street or highway in this state shall not operate at a speed
24 greater than ten (10) miles per hour less than the posted speed
25 limit for other vehicles.

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 amended as follows:

28 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
29 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall

30 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty
31 (40) feet.

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

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

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

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

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

63 positioned behind the front bolster and one (1) in front of the
64 back bolster. Any person who violates the provisions of this
65 section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be
66 subject to a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars
67 (\$1,000.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), by
68 imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, or
69 both such fine and imprisonment.

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

74 (8) The length limitations on projecting loads prescribed in
75 this section do not apply to a single vehicle or the rear vehicle
76 of a combination of vehicles designed for on-farm delivery and
77 unloading of any agricultural product, in its natural or
78 manufactured form, which is fitted with an auger or similar
79 unloading device permanently affixed to the vehicle that extends
80 no more than eight (8) feet horizontally beyond the rear or body
81 of the vehicle provided that no portion of such device which
82 extends four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the
83 vehicle is less than seven (7) feet above the roadway surface.
84 However, any such vehicle may not be operated on the public
85 highways, roads or streets of this state during the period
86 described under Section 63-7-11.

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

92 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2004.