

By: Representatives Boyd, Calvert, Smith,
McLeod, Scoggin

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 585

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-47, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE A VEHICLE TRANSPORTING A LOAD OF TIMBER PRODUCTS TO
3 OPERATE AT NIGHT PROVIDED THAT THE VEHICLE HAS A ROTATING LIGHT
4 AFFIXED TO THE END OF THE LOAD; TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-19,
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
6 THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 63-7-47. (1) Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to
11 the rear four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of such
12 vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the
13 load a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen (16) inches square.

14 (2) * * * A vehicle transporting a load of timber products
15 that extends more than four (4) feet beyond the bed or trailer may
16 operate at night provided that from one-half (1/2) hour before
17 sunset to one-half (1/2) hour after sunrise * * * and the period
18 described in Section 63-7-11, such vehicle shall have affixed as
19 close as practical to the end of the load a rotating or
20 oscillating amber strobe-type lamp or light-emitting diode light.



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

23 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
24 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall
25 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty
26 (40) feet.

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

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

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

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

39 (6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of
40 vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their
41 natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet
42 beyond the rear axle of the vehicle except in the special
43 circumstance hereinafter prescribed. If such products project
44 more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle and, due to
45 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 Sections 63-5-21 and 63-7-47, 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 Sections 63-5-21 and 63-7-47, 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, or as otherwise allowable by federal law.

(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



71 no more than eight (8) feet horizontally beyond the rear or body
72 of the vehicle provided that no portion of such device which
73 extends four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the
74 vehicle is less than seven (7) feet above the roadway surface.
75 However, any such vehicle may not be operated on the public
76 highways, roads or streets of this state during the period
77 described under Section 63-7-11.

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

83 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
84 and after July 1, 2020.

