

By: Senator(s) McCaughn, Sparks, Suber

To: Forestry

SENATE BILL NO. 2548

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 CLARIFY PROVISIONS THAT LENGTH RESTRICTIONS ARE THE SAME FOR  
3 DAYLIGHT AND NIGHTTIME OPERATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
8 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall  
9 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty  
10 (40) feet.

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

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



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

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

23 (6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of  
24 vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their  
25 natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet  
26 beyond the rear axle of the vehicle \* \* \*. If such products  
27 project more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle and,  
28 due to the end use for which they are intended (such as tall  
29 utility poles or light poles or the like), such products cannot be  
30 shortened without rendering them useless for the finished product  
31 for which they have been cut, then such special circumstance may  
32 be considered good cause for the obtaining of a permit which shall  
33 be procured pursuant to Section 63-5-51 before vehicles  
34 transporting such products may operate. Except as otherwise  
35 provided in Section 63-5-21 or 63-7-47(2), any vehicle  
36 transporting projecting loads as described in this subsection that  
37 extend four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the  
38 vehicle shall operate \* \* \* during daylight or nighttime hours,  
39 and the load on vehicles designed to transport forestry products  
40 shall be secured by at least two (2) chains, two (2) wire ropes,  
41 or two (2) nylon straps, one (1) positioned behind the front  
42 bolster and one (1) in front of the back bolster.



43           (7) Except as otherwise provided in Section 63-5-21 or  
44 63-7-47(2), the rear projecting load of any vehicle operating  
45 during the period described under Section 63-7-11 may not extend  
46 four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle, or  
47 as otherwise allowable by federal law.

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

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

66           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
67 and after July 1, 2023.

