

By: Representative Massengill

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 835

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR
 3 VEHICLES TRANSPORTING CONCRETE TO 66,000 POUNDS FOR VEHICLES WITH
 4 THREE AXLE CONFIGURATIONS AND ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT
 5 LIMITATION OF 74,000 POUNDS FOR VEHICLES WITH FOUR AXLE
 6 CONFIGURATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 9 amended as follows:

10 63-5-27. (1) Subject to the maximum gross single axle or
 11 tandem axle weights hereinafter specified, the gross single or
 12 tandem axle weights shall not exceed five hundred fifty (550)
 13 pounds per inch of tire width. The gross weight on any single or
 14 tandem axle thus derived shall be subject to a tolerance not in
 15 excess of five hundred (500) pounds provided that the total
 16 allowable gross weight of the single or tandem axle shall not
 17 exceed the maximum limitations allowed hereinafter.

18 (2) The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of
 19 any one (1) single axle of a vehicle shall not exceed twenty
 20 thousand (20,000) pounds exclusive of the tolerance provided in



21 Section 63-5-33. A single axle shall be defined as an assembly of
22 two (2) or more wheels whose centers are in one (1) transverse
23 vertical plane or may be included between two (2) parallel
24 transverse vertical planes forty (40) inches apart extending
25 across the full width of the vehicle.

26 (3) The gross weight imposed on the highway by any tandem
27 axle shall not exceed thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds
28 exclusive of the tolerance provided in Section 63-5-33. A tandem
29 axle shall be defined as any two (2) or more consecutive axles
30 whose centers are more than forty (40) inches but not more than
31 ninety-six (96) inches apart. No one (1) axle of any such group
32 of two (2) or more consecutive axles shall exceed the weight
33 permitted for a single axle.

34 (4) (a) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
35 transport concrete products and which are not available for
36 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and
37 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi shall not be made
38 to conform to the axle spacing requirements or axle or tire
39 loadings of this section or to the total combined weights as set
40 out in Section 63-5-33 in Table III, provided (i) that such
41 vehicles shall be limited to a gross weight of * * * sixty-six
42 thousand (66,000) pounds for such vehicles with three (3) axle
43 configurations or a gross weight of seventy-four thousand (74,000)
44 pounds for such vehicles with four (4) axle configurations; (ii)
45 that such vehicles shall only be operated within fifty (50) miles



46 of their home base; (iii) that any such vehicles shall be limited
47 to a maximum load of the rated capacity of the vehicle; (iv) that
48 all such vehicles shall have at least three (3) axles; and (v)
49 that all vehicles with only three (3) axles or more shall have all
50 wheels brake-equipped. Any two (2) or more axles close enough to
51 be considered an axle group shall be suspended by an equalizing
52 system and be spaced a minimum of four (4) feet apart in order to
53 be eligible for the maximum load as provided in this subsection.
54 It shall be a violation if vehicles to which this subsection
55 applies travel upon any federal interstate highway or upon any
56 roads or bridges designated and posted as incapable of carrying
57 such loads by the Transportation Commission, a board of
58 supervisors, or municipal governing authorities as provided in
59 subsection (5) or (6) of this section.

60 (b) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
61 transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin shall not be
62 made to conform to the axle spacing or axle or tire loadings of
63 this section. However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a
64 gross weight of sixty thousand (60,000) pounds; (ii) may be
65 operated only within a fifty-mile radius of their home base or
66 their contractual customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum
67 load of the rated capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all
68 wheels brake equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon
69 any federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges
70 designated and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the



71 Mississippi Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors
72 or municipal governing authorities as provided in subsection (5)
73 or (6) of this section.

74 (c) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to
75 collect and transport solid waste and which are not available for
76 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and
77 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi, shall not be made
78 to conform to the axle spacing or tire loadings of this section.
79 However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a gross weight of
80 sixty thousand (60,000) pounds; (ii) may be operated only within a
81 fifty-mile radius of their home base or their contractual
82 customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum load of the rated
83 capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all wheels
84 brake-equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon any
85 federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated
86 and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Mississippi
87 Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors or the
88 governing authorities of a municipality as provided in subsection
89 (5) or (6) of this section.

90 (d) The rear axle of trailer mounted knuckle boom log
91 loaders shall be exempt from the tire loading limitation provided
92 for in subsection (3) of this section; provided, however, that the
93 gross weight imposed on the highway by such an axle shall not
94 exceed forty-one thousand (41,000) pounds.



95 (5) The board of supervisors of any county or the governing
96 authorities of any municipality, by appropriate resolution, may
97 impose limitations more restrictive than those permitted in this
98 section upon the county highways of such county or the streets of
99 such municipality.

100 (6) The Mississippi Department of Transportation, for cause,
101 may post or limit any road or bridge to weights less than those
102 permitted by this section.

103 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
104 and after July 1, 2024.

