

By: Senator(s) Younger, Butler

To: Highways and  
Transportation

## SENATE BILL NO. 2256

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROSS WEIGHT FOR VEHICLES  
3 TRANSPORTING CONCRETE TO 64,000 POUNDS FOR VEHICLES WITH THREE  
4 AXLE CONFIGURATIONS AND ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT  
5 LIMITATION OF 72,000 POUNDS FOR VEHICLES WITH FOUR AXLE  
6 CONFIGURATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT ALLOWABLE FOR  
7 AXLE DISTRIBUTION FOR VEHICLES WITH ANY SINGLE AXLE AND FOR TWO  
8 AND THREE AXLE TANDEMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

20 (2) The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of  
21 any one (1) single axle of a vehicle shall not exceed twenty



thousand (20,000) pounds exclusive of the tolerance provided in Section 63-5-33. A single axle shall be defined as an assembly of two (2) or more wheels whose centers are in one (1) transverse vertical plane or may be included between two (2) parallel transverse vertical planes forty (40) inches apart extending across the full width of the vehicle.

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

(4) (a) (i) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to transport concrete products \* \* \* shall not be made to conform to the axle spacing requirements or axle or tire loadings of this section or to the total combined weights as set out in Section 63-5-33 in Table III, provided:

\* \* \* 1. That such vehicles shall be limited to a gross vehicle weight of \* \* \* sixty-four thousand (64,000) pounds for such vehicles with three (3) axle configurations or a gross vehicle weight of seventy-two thousand (72,000) pounds for such vehicles with four (4) axle configurations, and provided



further, that the maximum weight shall adhere to the limits imposed on the axle distribution weights as follows:

a. Twenty-two thousand (22,000) pounds for any single axle;

b. Forty-eight thousand (48,000) pounds for any two (2) axle tandem; and

c. Fifty-seven thousand (57,000) pounds for any three (3) axle tandem;

\* \* \*2. That such vehicles shall only be operated within fifty (50) miles of their home base;

\* \* \*3. That any such vehicles shall be limited to a maximum load of the rated capacity of the vehicle;

\* \* \*4. That all such vehicles shall have at least three (3) axles; and

\* \* \*5. That all vehicles with only three (3) axles shall have all wheels brake-equipped.

(ii) Any two (2) or more axles close enough to be considered an axle group shall be suspended by an equalizing system and be spaced a minimum of four (4) feet apart in order to be eligible for the maximum load as provided in this subsection.

(iii) It shall be a violation if vehicles to which this subsection applies travel upon any federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Transportation Commission, a board of



70 supervisors, or municipal governing authorities as provided in  
71 subsection (5) or (6) of this section.

72 (b) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to  
73 transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin shall not be  
74 made to conform to the axle spacing or axle or tire loadings of  
75 this section. However, such vehicles:

76 (i) Shall be limited to a gross weight of sixty  
77 thousand (60,000) pounds;

78 (ii) May be operated only within a fifty-mile  
79 radius of their home base or their contractual customer;

80 (iii) Shall be limited to a maximum load of the  
81 rated capacity of that vehicle;

82 (iv) Shall have all wheels brake equipped; and

83 (v) Are prohibited from traveling upon any federal  
84 interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated and  
85 posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Mississippi  
86 Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors or municipal  
87 governing authorities as provided in subsection (5) or (6) of this  
88 section.

89 (c) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to  
90 collect and transport solid waste and which are not available for  
91 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and  
92 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi, shall not be made  
93 to conform to the axle spacing or tire loadings of this section.  
94 However, such vehicles:



95                   (i) Shall be limited to a gross weight of sixty  
96 thousand (60,000) pounds;

97                   (ii) May be operated only within a fifty-mile  
98 radius of their home base or their contractual customer;

99                   (iii) Shall be limited to a maximum load of the  
100 rated capacity of that vehicle;

101                   (iv) Shall have all wheels brake-equipped; and

102                   (v) Are prohibited from traveling upon any federal  
103 interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated and  
104 posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Mississippi  
105 Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors or the  
106 governing authorities of a municipality as provided in subsection  
107 (5) or (6) of this section.

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

113                   (5) The board of supervisors of any county or the governing  
114 authorities of any municipality, by appropriate resolution, may  
115 impose limitations more restrictive than those permitted in this  
116 section upon the county highways of such county or the streets of  
117 such municipality.



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

121           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
122 and after July 1, 2025.

