

By: Senator(s) Younger, Butler

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2256  
(As Passed the Senate)

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 AND VEHICLES TRANSPORTING SOLID WASTE TO  
4 64,000 POUNDS FOR VEHICLES WITH THREE AXLE CONFIGURATIONS AND  
5 ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT LIMITATION OF 72,000 POUNDS FOR  
6 VEHICLES WITH FOUR AXLE CONFIGURATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAXIMUM  
7 WEIGHT ALLOWABLE FOR AXLE DISTRIBUTION FOR VEHICLES WITH ANY  
8 SINGLE AXLE AND FOR TWO AND THREE AXLE TANDEMS; AND FOR RELATED  
9 PURPOSES.

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

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

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



(2) The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of 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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



(i) Shall be limited to a gross vehicle weight of \* \* \* sixty-four thousand (64,000) pounds for such vehicles with three (3) axle configurations, and provided further, that the maximum weight shall adhere to the limits imposed on the axle distribution weights as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) The rear axle of trailer mounted knuckle boom log loaders shall be exempt from the tire loading limitation provided for in subsection (3) of this section; provided, however, that the



121 gross weight imposed on the highway by such an axle shall not  
122 exceed forty-one thousand (41,000) pounds.

123 (5) The board of supervisors of any county or the governing  
124 authorities of any municipality, by appropriate resolution, may  
125 impose limitations more restrictive than those permitted in this  
126 section upon the county highways of such county or the streets of  
127 such municipality.

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

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

