

By: Representative Ellzey

To: Transportation

## HOUSE BILL NO. 178

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS TO THE MAXIMUM WHEEL AND AXLE LOAD  
3 LIMITATIONS FOR ANIMAL OR POULTRY FEED OR INGREDIENTS  
4 TRANSPORTERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 63-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 63-5-27. (1) Subject to the maximum gross single axle or  
9 tandem axle weights hereinafter specified, the gross single or  
10 tandem axle weights shall not exceed five hundred fifty (550)  
11 pounds per inch of tire width. The gross weight on any single or  
12 tandem axle thus derived shall be subject to a tolerance not in  
13 excess of five hundred (500) pounds provided that the total  
14 allowable gross weight of the single or tandem axle shall not  
15 exceed the maximum limitations allowed hereinafter.

16 (2) The gross weight imposed on the highway by the wheels of  
17 any one (1) single axle of a vehicle shall not exceed twenty  
18 thousand (20,000) pounds exclusive of the tolerance provided in  
19 Section 63-5-33. A single axle shall be defined as an assembly of  
20 two (2) or more wheels whose centers are in one (1) transverse  
21 vertical plane or may be included between two (2) parallel  
22 transverse vertical planes forty (40) inches apart extending  
23 across the full width of the vehicle.

24 (3) The gross weight imposed on the highway by any tandem  
25 axle shall not exceed thirty-four thousand (34,000) pounds  
26 exclusive of the tolerance provided in Section 63-5-33. A tandem  
27 axle shall be defined as any two (2) or more consecutive axles

28 whose centers are more than forty (40) inches but not more than  
29 ninety-six (96) inches apart. No one (1) axle of any such group  
30 of two (2) or more consecutive axles shall exceed the weight  
31 permitted for a single axle.

32 (4) (a) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to  
33 transport concrete products and which are not available for  
34 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and  
35 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi shall not be made  
36 to conform to the axle spacing requirements or axle or tire  
37 loadings of this section or to the total combined weights as set  
38 out in Section 63-5-33 in Table III, provided (i) that such  
39 vehicles shall be limited to a gross weight of sixty thousand  
40 (60,000) pounds; (ii) that such vehicles shall only be operated  
41 within fifty (50) miles of their home base; (iii) that any such  
42 vehicles shall be limited to a maximum load of the rated capacity  
43 of the vehicle; (iv) that all such vehicles shall have at least  
44 three (3) axles; and (v) that all vehicles with only three (3)  
45 axles shall have all wheels brake-equipped. Any two (2) or more  
46 axles close enough to be considered an axle group shall be  
47 suspended by an equalizing system and be spaced a minimum of four  
48 (4) feet apart in order to be eligible for the maximum load as  
49 provided in this subsection. It shall be a violation if vehicles  
50 to which this subsection applies travel upon any federal  
51 interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated and  
52 posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Transportation  
53 Commission, a board of supervisors, or municipal governing  
54 authorities as provided in subsection (5) or (6) of this section.

55 (b) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to  
56 transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin shall not be  
57 made to conform to the axle spacing or axle or tire loadings of  
58 this section. However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a  
59 gross weight of sixty thousand (60,000) pounds; (ii) may be  
60 operated only within a fifty (50) miles radius of their home base  
61 or their contractual customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum  
62 load of the rated capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all  
63 wheels brake equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon  
64 any federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges

65 designated and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the  
66 Mississippi Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors  
67 or municipal governing authorities as provided in subsection (5)  
68 or (6) of this section.

69 (c) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to  
70 collect and transport solid waste and which are not available for  
71 purchase in sizes and capacities to fully comply with the road and  
72 bridge weight laws of the State of Mississippi, shall not be made  
73 to conform to the axle spacing or tire loadings of this section.  
74 However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a gross weight of  
75 sixty thousand (60,000) pounds; (ii) may be operated only within a  
76 fifty (50) mile radius of their home base or their contractual  
77 customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum load of the rated  
78 capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all wheels  
79 brake-equipped; and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon any  
80 federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges designated  
81 and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the Mississippi  
82 Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors or the  
83 governing authorities of a municipality as provided in subsections  
84 (5) or (6) of this section.

85 (d) Vehicles designed and especially constructed to  
86 transport animal or poultry feed or ingredients shall not be made  
87 to conform to the axle spacing or axle or tire loadings of this  
88 section. However, such vehicles (i) shall be limited to a gross  
89 weight of eighty-eight thousand (88,000) pounds; (ii) may be  
90 operated only within a fifty (50) mile radius of their home base  
91 or their contractual customer; (iii) shall be limited to a maximum  
92 load of the rated capacity of that vehicle; (iv) shall have all  
93 wheels brake equipped, and (v) are prohibited from traveling upon  
94 any federal interstate highway or upon any roads or bridges  
95 designated and posted as incapable of carrying such loads by the  
96 Mississippi Department of Transportation, a board of supervisors  
97 or municipal governing authorities as provided in subsection (5)

98 or (6) of this section.

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

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

107           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
108 and after July 1, 1999.