

By: Representative Capps

To: Transportation

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1236

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-5-13 AND 63-5-19, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM WIDTH AND LENGTH LIMITATIONS
3 FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES DESIGNED AND ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED TO
4 TRANSPORT RAW COTTON FROM HARVEST TO THE COTTON GIN WHENEVER ANY
5 SUCH VEHICLE IS BEING OPERATED WITHIN A RADIUS OF FIFTY MILES OF
6 THE VEHICLE'S HOME BASE OR ITS CONTRACTUAL CUSTOMER; AND FOR
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 63-5-13. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
12 the total outside width of any vehicle, exclusive of required
13 safety devices, or the load thereon shall not exceed eight and
14 one-half (8-1/2) feet; provided, however, that appurtenances on
15 recreational vehicles shall be allowed so long as they are inside
16 the exterior rearview mirrors of the recreational vehicle or
17 inside the exterior rearview mirrors of the vehicle towing the
18 recreational vehicle, and such mirrors do not extend further than
19 necessary to obtain the appropriate field of view.

20 (2) The total outside load width of any vehicle hauling
21 unprocessed forest products on public roads, streets or highways,
22 other than interstate highways, shall not exceed nine and one-half
23 (9-1/2) feet if such products may not be shortened without
24 rendering them useless for the end product for which they were
25 cut; provided, however, the total outside vehicle width of such a
26 vehicle, exclusive of required safety devices and the load of such
27 vehicle, shall not exceed eight and one-half (8-1/2) feet.

28 (3) The total outside width of a farm tractor shall not
29 exceed ten (10) feet, except that farm tractors shall not be



30 operated upon the interstate highways without a special permit
31 from the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

32 (4) A vehicle designed and especially constructed to
33 transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin may have a
34 total outside width not to exceed nine (9) feet whenever any such
35 vehicle is being operated within a radius of fifty (50) miles of
36 the vehicle's home base or its contractual customer.

37 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
38 amended as follows:

39 63-5-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
40 no single vehicle, unladen or with load, shall have an overall
41 length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of forty
42 (40) feet.

43 (2) No semitrailer operating in a truck tractor-semitrailer
44 combination and no trailer drawn by a motor vehicle shall exceed a
45 length of fifty (50) feet.

46 (3) No semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck
47 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination and no trailer operating
48 in a double trailer combination drawn by a motor vehicle shall
49 exceed a length of thirty (30) feet.

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

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

55 (6) The load upon the rear vehicle of a combination of
56 vehicles transporting forest or agricultural products in their
57 natural state shall not project more than twenty-eight (28) feet
58 beyond the rear axle of the vehicle except in the special
59 circumstance hereinafter prescribed. If such products project
60 more than twenty-eight (28) feet beyond the rear axle and, due to
61 the end use for which they are intended (such as tall utility
62 poles or light poles or the like), such products cannot be



63 shortened without rendering them useless for the finished product
64 for which they have been cut, then such special circumstance may
65 be considered good cause for the obtaining of a permit which shall
66 be procured pursuant to Section 63-5-51 before vehicles
67 transporting such products may operate. Except as otherwise
68 provided in Section 63-5-21, any vehicle transporting projecting
69 loads as described in this subsection that extend four (4) feet or
70 more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle shall operate only
71 during daylight hours, and the load on vehicles designed to
72 transport forestry products shall be secured by at least two (2)
73 chains, two (2) wire ropes, or two (2) nylon straps, one (1)
74 positioned behind the front bolster and one (1) in front of the
75 back bolster.

76 (7) Except as otherwise provided in Section 63-5-21, the
77 rear projecting load of any vehicle operating during the period
78 described under Section 63-7-11 may not extend four (4) feet or
79 more beyond the rear or body of the vehicle.

80 (8) The length limitations on projecting loads prescribed in
81 this section do not apply to a single vehicle or the rear vehicle
82 of a combination of vehicles designed for on-farm delivery and
83 unloading of any agricultural product, in its natural or
84 manufactured form, which is fitted with an auger or similar
85 unloading device permanently affixed to the vehicle that extends
86 no more than eight (8) feet horizontally beyond the rear or body
87 of the vehicle provided that no portion of such device which
88 extends four (4) feet or more beyond the rear or body of the
89 vehicle is less than seven (7) feet above the roadway surface.
90 However, any such vehicle may not be operated on the public
91 highways, roads or streets of this state during the period
92 described under Section 63-7-11.

93 (9) A vehicle designed and especially constructed to
94 transport raw cotton from harvest to the cotton gin may have a
95 total overall length not to exceed fifty (50) feet whenever any



96 such vehicle is being operated within a radius of fifty (50) miles
97 of the vehicle's home base or its contractual customer.

98 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after July 1, 2002.

