

SB266 ENROLLED



1 SB266

2 2PJNIIK-2

3 By Senators Livingston, Gudger, Shelnut, Butler, Weaver,

4 Carnley, Williams, Bell, Elliott, Price, Allen, Sessions,

5 Stutts, Chambliss, Chesteen, Melson, Albritton

6 RFD: Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development

7 First Read: 02-Apr-24



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 Relating to motor vehicles, to amend Section 32-9-20,
5 Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for terms used in
6 enforcing prohibitions on the maximum weights of vehicles; and
7 to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the
8 existing code language and hierarchy to current style.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

10 Section 1. Section 32-9-20, Code of Alabama 1975, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "§32-9-20

13 (a) It shall be unlawful for any ~~person~~ individual to
14 drive or move on any highway in this state any vehicle or
15 vehicles of a size or weight except in accordance with the
16 following:

17 ~~(1)~~ (4) WIDTH. Vehicles and combinations of vehicles
18 operating on highways shall not exceed a total outside width,
19 including any load thereon, of 102 inches, exclusive of
20 mirrors or other safety devices approved by the Department of
21 Transportation. No passenger vehicle shall carry any load
22 extending beyond the line of the fenders. No vehicle hauling
23 forest products or culvert pipe on any highway ~~in this state~~
24 shall have a load exceeding 102 inches in width.

25 ~~(2)~~ (1) HEIGHT. No vehicle ~~or~~ or, semitrailer, or trailer
26 shall exceed in height 13 1/2 feet, including load.

27 ~~(3)~~ (2) LENGTH. No vehicle shall exceed in length 40
28 feet; except, that the length of a truck-semitrailer



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29 combination, semitrailers, including load, used in a truck
30 tractor-semitrailer combination, shall not exceed 57 feet;
31 semitrailers and trailers, including load, used in a truck
32 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, shall not exceed 28
33 1/2 feet each; and motor vehicles designed, used, or
34 maintained primarily as a mobile dwelling, office, or
35 commercial space, commonly called motor homes, shall not
36 exceed 45 feet. Semitrailers exceeding 53 1/2 feet shall only
37 be operated on highways designated pursuant to Section 32-9-1
38 and shall only be operated when the distance between the
39 kingpin of ~~the~~ a semitrailer and the rearmost axle or a point
40 midway between the two rear axles, if the two rear axles are
41 tandem axles, does not exceed 41 feet and if the semitrailer
42 is equipped with a rear underride guard of a substantial
43 construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending
44 to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the
45 semitrailer and located not more than 22 inches from the
46 surface as measured with the semitrailers empty and on a level
47 surface. For purposes of enforcement of this subdivision,
48 lengths of semitrailers and trailers refer to the cargo
49 carrying portion of the unit. Truck tractor units used
50 exclusively in combinations transporting motor vehicles may
51 directly carry a portion of the cargo, provided that the
52 combinations are restricted to truck tractor-semitrailer
53 combinations only and provided further that the overall length
54 of these particular combinations shall not exceed 65 feet;
55 except that the overall length of stinger-steered type units
56 shall not exceed 80 feet. No truck tractor-semitrailer



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57 combination used exclusively for transporting motor vehicles
58 shall carry any load extending more than four feet beyond the
59 front or six feet beyond the rear of the combination. No other
60 vehicle operated on a highway shall carry any load extending
61 more than a total of five feet beyond both the front and rear,
62 inclusive, of the vehicle.

63 ~~(4)~~ (3) WEIGHT.

64 a.1. Axle Weight. The gross weight imposed on the
65 highway by the wheels of any one axle of a vehicle shall not
66 exceed 20,000 pounds, or other weight, if any, as may be
67 permitted by federal law to keep the state from losing federal
68 funds; provided, that inadequate bridges shall be posted to
69 define load limits.

70 ~~b.2.~~ For the purpose of this ~~section~~ subdivision, ~~an~~
71 ~~axle load~~ an "axle load" shall be defined as the total load
72 transmitted to the road by all wheels whose centers are
73 included between two parallel transverse vertical planes 40
74 inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle.

75 3. Vehicles and combinations of vehicles shall not
76 operate on the Interstate Highway System of Alabama that have
77 a weight greater than 20,000 pounds carried on any one axle,
78 including the allowable load tolerance, or with a tandem axle
79 weight in excess of 34,000 pounds, including the allowable
80 load tolerance, or overall gross weight on a group of two or
81 more consecutive axles produced by application of the
82 following formula:

83 $W=500 (LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36)$

84 where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or
85 more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance



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86 in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more
87 consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in the group under
88 consideration; except, that two consecutive sets of tandem
89 axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided
90 the overall distance between the first and last axles of the
91 consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more and the
92 overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including
93 the allowable load tolerance.

94 e.b. Gross Weight. Subject to the limit upon the
95 weight imposed upon the highway through any one axle as set
96 forth herein, the total weight with load imposed upon the
97 highway by all the axles of a vehicle or combination of
98 vehicles shall not exceed the gross weight given for the
99 respective distances between the first and last axle of the
100 vehicle or combination of vehicles, measured longitudinally to
101 the nearest foot as set forth in the following table:

102 COMPUTED GROSS WEIGHT TABLE

103 For various spacings of axle groupings

104 Distance in feet between first and	105 Maximum load in				
106 last axles of vehicle or combination	106 pounds on all the				
of vehicles	axles				

107	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
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108 8 or less	36,000	42,000	42,000		
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109 9	38,000	42,500	42,500		
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110 10	40,000	43,500	43,500		
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111	11	44,000	44,000		
112	12	45,000	50,000	50,000	
113	13	45,500	50,500	50,500	
114	14	46,500	51,500	51,500	
115	15	47,000	52,000	52,000	
116	16	48,000	52,500	58,000	58,000
117	17	48,500	53,500	58,500	58,500
118	18	49,500	54,000	59,000	59,000
119	19	50,000	54,500	60,000	60,000
120	20	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
121	21	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
122	22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
123	23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
124	24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
125	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
126	26	56,000	59,500	64,000	69,500
127	27	57,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
128	28	59,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
129	29	60,000	61,500	66,000	71,500
130	30		62,000	66,500	72,000
131	31		63,500	67,000	72,500



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132	32	64,500	68,000	73,500
133	33	65,000	69,000	74,000
134	34	65,500	70,000	74,500
135	35	66,500	71,000	75,000
136	36	67,000	72,000	76,000
137	37	68,000	73,000	77,000
138	38	69,000	74,000	78,000
139	39	70,000	75,000	79,000
140	40	71,000	76,000	80,000
141	41	72,000	77,000	81,000
142	42	73,000	78,000	82,000
143	43	74,000	79,000	83,000
144	44 and over	75,000	80,000	84,000

145 c. Special Permits. Except as provided by special
146 permits, no vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding the
147 gross weights specified above shall be permitted to travel on
148 the public highways within the State of Alabama.
149 ~~No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be permitted to~~
150 ~~operate on any portion of the Interstate Highway System of~~
151 ~~Alabama that shall have a greater weight than 20,000 pounds~~
152 ~~carried on any one axle, including all enforcement tolerances,~~
153 ~~or with a tandem axle weight in excess of 34,000 pounds,~~
154 ~~including all enforcement tolerances, or with an overall gross~~
155 ~~weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles produced by~~



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156 ~~application of the following formula:~~

157
$$W=500 (LN + 12N + 36)$$

158
$$(N-1)$$

159 ~~where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or~~
160 ~~more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance~~
161 ~~in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more~~
162 ~~consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in group under~~
163 ~~consideration; except, that two consecutive sets of tandem~~
164 ~~axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided~~
165 ~~the overall distance between the first and last axles of the~~
166 ~~consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more; provided,~~
167 ~~that the overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds,~~
168 ~~including all enforcement tolerances. Nothing in this section~~
169 ~~shall be construed as permitting size or weight limits on the~~
170 ~~National System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this~~
171 ~~state in excess of those permitted under 23 U.S.C. § 127. If~~
172 ~~the federal government prescribes or adopts vehicle size or~~
173 ~~weight limits greater than or less than those now prescribed~~
174 ~~by 23 U.S.C. § 127 for the National System of Interstate and~~
175 ~~Defense Highways, the increased or decreased limits shall~~
176 ~~become effective on the National System of Interstate and~~
177 ~~Defense Highways in this state. Nothing in this section shall~~
178 ~~be construed to deny the operation of any vehicle or~~
179 ~~combination of vehicles that could be lawfully operated upon~~
180 ~~the highways and roads of this state on January 4, 1975.~~

181 d.1. Allowable Load Tolerance. For purposes of
182 enforcement of enforcing this subdivision, all weights less



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183 than or equal to the sum of the weight otherwise prescribed by
184 this subdivision, ~~plus an additional weight to be calculated~~
185 ~~by multiplying the weight prescribed by this subdivision by~~
186 ~~one-tenth (.10) that shall represent a scale or enforcement~~
187 ~~tolerance~~ the allowable load tolerance, shall be deemed to be
188 in compliance with the requirements of this section, and shall
189 not constitute violations thereof. No evidence shall be
190 admitted into evidence or considered by the trier of fact in
191 any civil action unless the evidence proffered would tend to
192 prove that the weight of the vehicle exceeded the amount
193 provided in this subsection. Nothing in this paragraph shall
194 restrict or affect the right of any defendant to place in
195 evidence such evidence tending to prove the defendant was in
196 compliance with this section.

197 2. For the purposes of this subdivision, the allowable
198 load tolerance is calculated by multiplying the weight
199 prescribed by this subdivision by one-tenth (.10).

200 e. Special Trucks. Dump trucks, dump trailers, concrete
201 mixing trucks, fuel oil, gasoline trucks, and trucks
202 designated and constructed for special type work or use shall
203 not be made to conform to the axle spacing requirements of
204 paragraph eb.; provided, that the vehicle shall be limited to
205 a weight of 20,000 pounds per axle ~~plus scale tolerances~~ the
206 allowable load tolerance; and, provided further, that the
207 maximum gross weight of the vehicles shall not exceed the
208 maximum weight allowed by this section for the appropriate
209 number of axles, irrespective of the distance between axles,
210 plus the allowable ~~scale tolerances~~ load tolerance. All axles



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211 shall be brake equipped. Trucks delivering asphalt plant mix
212 which do not exceed the maximum allowable gross weight and
213 operate within 50 miles of their home base shall not be
214 required to conform to the requirements of paragraph a.
215 Concrete mixing trucks that operate within 50 miles of their
216 home base and do not exceed the maximum allowable gross weight
217 shall not be required to conform to the requirements of
218 paragraph a. It shall be a violation if the vehicles named
219 under this subdivision travel upon bridges designated and
220 posted by the Transportation Director as incapable of carrying
221 the load.

222 f. Driver Compliance. If the driver of any vehicle can
223 comply with the weight requirements of this section by
224 shifting or equalizing the load on all wheels or axles and
225 does so when requested by the proper authority, the driver
226 shall not be held to be operating in violation of this
227 section.

228 g. Portable Scales. When portable scales are used in
229 ~~the enforcement of~~ enforcing this section, the axles of any
230 vehicle described or commonly referred to as tandem or triaxle
231 rigs or units—(, that is, vehicles having two or more axles in
232 addition to a steering axle), the group of tandem or triaxles
233 shall be weighed simultaneously, and the total weight so
234 derived shall be divided by the number of axles weighed in the
235 group to arrive at the per axle weight, except that if any one
236 axle in the group exceeds 20,000 pounds in weight, it shall
237 not exceed the weight of any other axle in the group by more
238 than 50 percent. When portable scales are used to determine



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239 the axle weight or the gross weight of a vehicle pursuant to
240 this section, the operator of the vehicle will be permitted to
241 move the vehicle to the nearest platform scales certified by
242 the Department of Agriculture and Industries and operated by a
243 bonded operator within a distance of 10 highway miles,
244 accompanied by an enforcement officer to verify the accuracy
245 of the portable scales used in determining the axle weight or
246 gross weight of the vehicle~~weight~~. If the weight of the
247 vehicle is shown by the platform scales to be within the legal
248 limits of this section, including the allowable load
249 tolerance, the operator of the vehicle shall not be held to be
250 in violation of this section.

251 h. County Highways. The governing body of a county, by
252 appropriate resolution, may authorize limitations less than
253 those prescribed herein for vehicles operated upon the county
254 highways of the county.

255 i. Posted Roads and Bridges. The Department of
256 Transportation may post or limit any road or bridge to weights
257 less than those prescribed by this section. It is the
258 legislative intent and purpose that this section be rigidly
259 enforced by the Department of Transportation, the Alabama
260 State Law Enforcement Agency, ~~and~~ any other authorized law
261 enforcement officers of ~~the~~ this state, and any county, ~~or~~
262 city, and incorporated towns.

263 j. Agricultural Commodities. Two and three axle
264 vehicles being used exclusively for the purpose of
265 transporting agricultural commodities or products to and from
266 a farm and for agricultural purposes relating to the operation



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267 and maintenance of a farm by any farmer, custom harvester, or
268 husbandman may not be made to conform to the axle requirements
269 of paragraph a. or the gross weight requirements of paragraph
270 eb.

271 (b) (1) Any vehicle utilizing an auxiliary power or idle
272 reduction technology unit in order to promote reduction of
273 fuel use and emissions because of engine idling shall be
274 allowed an additional 400 pounds total to the gross, axle,
275 tandem, or bridge formula weight limits defined in this
276 section.

277 (2) To be eligible for the exception provided in this
278 subsection, the operator of the vehicle must provide written
279 proof or certification of the weight of the auxiliary power
280 unit (APU) and demonstrate or certify the idle reduction
281 technology is fully functional at all times.

282 (3) Written proof or certification of the weight of the
283 APU must be available to law enforcement officers if the
284 vehicle is found in violation of applicable weight laws. The
285 weight allowed ~~cannot~~ may not exceed 400 pounds or the actual
286 weight proven or certified, whichever is less.

287 (4) It is the intent of this subsection to apply at the
288 state highway level the weight limit increase for vehicles
289 using a functioning auxiliary power or idle reduction
290 technology as provided in the Federal Energy Policy Act of
291 2005.

292 (c) (1) Any motor vehicle, if operated by an engine
293 fueled primarily by natural gas, may exceed any vehicle weight
294 limit, up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 82,000 pounds,



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295 under this section by an amount that is equal to the
296 difference between:

297 a. The weight of the vehicle attributable to the
298 natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle;
299 and

300 b. The weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling
301 system.

302 (2) This subsection applies on federal interstate
303 highways to the weight limit increases for vehicles using an
304 EPA certified natural gas engine or an EPA approved conversion
305 unit installed on the vehicle that allows the vehicle to
306 operate primarily on compressed natural gas or liquefied
307 natural gas.

308 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as
309 effectuating either of the following:

310 (1) Permitting size or weight limits on the National
311 System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this state in
312 excess of those permitted under 23 U.S.C. § 127. If the
313 federal government prescribes or adopts vehicle size or weight
314 limits greater than or less than those now prescribed by 23
315 U.S.C. § 127 for the National System of Interstate and Defense
316 Highways, the increased or decreased limits shall become
317 effective on the National System of Interstate and Defense
318 Highways in this state.

319 (2) Denying the operation of any vehicle or combination
320 of vehicles that could be lawfully operated upon the highways
321 and roads of this state on January 4, 1975."

322 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October



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323 1, 2024.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Senate 11-Apr-24

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Amended and passed: 25-Apr-24

Senate concurred in House amendment 30-Apr-24

By: Senator Livingston