

1 HB88  
2 173105-2  
3 By Representative Moore (B)  
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
5 First Read: 03-FEB-16



1 Department. The Director of the State Transportation  
2 Department may, in his or her discretion, designate other  
3 public highways for use by vehicles and loads with total  
4 outside widths not exceeding 102 inches, otherwise; vehicles  
5 and combinations of vehicles, operating on highways with  
6 traffic lanes less than 12 feet in width, shall not exceed a  
7 total outside width, including any load thereon, of 96 inches,  
8 exclusive of mirrors or other safety devices approved by the  
9 State Transportation Department. No passenger vehicle shall  
10 carry any load extending beyond the line of the fenders. No  
11 vehicle hauling forest products or culvert pipe on any highway  
12 in this state shall have a load exceeding 102 inches in width.

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

15 "(3) LENGTH. No vehicle shall exceed in length 40  
16 feet; except, that the length of a truck-semitrailer  
17 combination, semitrailers, including load, used in a truck  
18 tractor-semitrailer combination, shall not exceed 57 feet;  
19 semitrailers and trailers, including load, used in a truck  
20 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, shall not exceed 28  
21 1/2 feet each; and motor vehicles designed, used, or  
22 maintained primarily as a mobile dwelling, office, or  
23 commercial space, commonly called motor homes, shall not  
24 exceed 45 feet. Semitrailers exceeding 53 1/2 feet shall only  
25 be operated on highways designated pursuant to Section 32-9-1  
26 and shall only be operated when the distance between the  
27 kingpin of the semitrailer and the rearmost axle or a point

1 midway between the two rear axles, if the two rear axles are  
2 tandem axles, does not exceed 41 feet and if the semitrailer  
3 is equipped with a rear underride guard of a substantial  
4 construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending  
5 to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the  
6 semitrailer and located not more than 22 inches from the  
7 surface as measured with the semitrailers empty and on a level  
8 surface. For purposes of enforcement of this subdivision,  
9 lengths of semitrailers and trailers refer to the cargo  
10 carrying portion of the unit. Truck tractor units used  
11 exclusively in combinations transporting motor vehicles may  
12 directly carry a portion of the cargo, provided that the  
13 combinations are restricted to truck tractor-semitrailer  
14 combinations only and provided further that the overall length  
15 of these particular combinations shall not exceed 65 feet;  
16 except that the overall length of stinger-steered type units  
17 shall not exceed 75 feet. No truck tractor-semitrailer  
18 combination used exclusively for transporting motor vehicles  
19 shall carry any load extending more than three feet beyond the  
20 front or four feet beyond the rear of the combination. No  
21 other vehicle operated on a highway shall carry any load  
22 extending more than a total of five feet beyond both the front  
23 and rear, inclusive, of the vehicle.

24 "(4) WEIGHT.

25 "a. The gross weight imposed on the highway by the  
26 wheels of any one axle of a vehicle shall not exceed 20,000  
27 pounds, or such other weight, if any, as may be permitted by

1 federal law to keep the state from losing federal funds;  
2 provided, that inadequate bridges shall be posted to define  
3 load limits.

4 "b. For the purpose of this section, an axle load  
5 shall be defined as the total load transmitted to the road by  
6 all wheels whose centers are included between two parallel  
7 transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart, extending across  
8 the full width of the vehicle.

9 "c. Subject to the limit upon the weight imposed  
10 upon the highway through any one axle as set forth herein, the  
11 total weight with load imposed upon the highway by all the  
12 axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall not exceed  
13 the gross weight given for the respective distances between  
14 the first and last axle of the vehicle or combination of vehi-  
15 cles, measured longitudinally to the nearest foot as set forth  
16 in the following table:

17 "COMPUTED GROSS WEIGHT TABLE

18 "For various spacings of axle groupings

19 "Distance in feet between first	Maximum load in
20 and last axles of vehicle or	pounds on all the
21 combination of vehicles	axles

22	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
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1	8 or	36,000	42,000	42,000		
2	less					
3	9	38,000	42,500	42,500		
4	10	40,000	43,500	43,500		
5	11		44,000	44,000		
6	12		45,000	50,000	50,000	
7	13		45,500	50,500	50,500	
8	14		46,500	51,500	51,500	
9	15		47,000	52,000	52,000	
10	16		48,000	52,500	58,000	58,000
11	17		48,500	53,500	58,500	58,500
12	18		49,500	54,000	59,000	59,000
13	19		50,000	54,500	60,000	60,000
14	20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
15	21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
16	22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
17	23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
18	24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
19	25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
20	26		56,000	59,500	64,000	69,500
21	27		57,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
22	28		59,000	60,500	65,500	71,000

1	29	60,000	61,500	66,000	71,500
2	30		62,000	66,500	72,000
3	31		63,500	67,000	72,500
4	32		64,500	68,000	73,500
5	33		65,000	69,000	74,000
6	34		65,500	70,000	74,500
7	35		66,500	71,000	75,000
8	36		67,000	72,000	76,000
9	37		68,000	73,000	77,000
10	38		69,000	74,000	78,000
11	39		70,000	75,000	79,000
12	40		71,000	76,000	80,000
13	41		72,000	77,000	81,000
14	42		73,000	78,000	82,000
15	43		74,000	79,000	83,000
16	44 and		75,000	80,000	84,000
17	over				

18                   "Except as provided by special permits, no vehicle  
19 or combination of vehicles exceeding the gross weights  
20 specified above shall be permitted to travel on the public  
21 highways within the State of Alabama.



1 size or weight limits greater than or less than those now  
2 prescribed by 23 U.S.C. Section 127 for the National System of  
3 Interstate and Defense Highways, the increased or decreased  
4 limits shall become effective on the National System of  
5 Interstate and Defense Highways in this state. Nothing in this  
6 section shall be construed to deny the operation of any  
7 vehicle or combination of vehicles that could be lawfully  
8 operated upon the highways and roads of this state on January  
9 4, 1975.

10 "d. For purposes of enforcement of this subdivision,  
11 all weights less than or equal to the sum of the weight  
12 otherwise prescribed by this subdivision, plus an additional  
13 weight to be calculated by multiplying the weight prescribed  
14 by this subdivision by one-tenth (.10) that shall represent a  
15 scale or enforcement tolerance, shall be deemed to be in  
16 compliance with the requirements of this section, and shall  
17 not constitute violations thereof. No evidence shall be  
18 admitted into evidence or considered by the trier of fact in  
19 any civil action unless the evidence proffered would tend to  
20 prove that the weight of the vehicle exceeded the amount  
21 provided in this subsection. Nothing in this paragraph d.  
22 shall restrict or affect the right of any defendant to place  
23 in evidence such evidence tending to prove the defendant was  
24 in compliance with this section.

25 "e. Dump trucks, dump trailers, concrete mixing  
26 trucks, fuel oil, gasoline trucks, and trucks designated and  
27 constructed for special type work or use shall not be made to

1 conform to the axle spacing requirements of paragraph (4)c of  
2 this section; provided, that the vehicle shall be limited to a  
3 weight of 20,000 pounds per axle plus scale tolerances; and,  
4 provided further, that the maximum gross weight of the  
5 vehicles shall not exceed the maximum weight allowed by this  
6 section for the appropriate number of axles, irrespective of  
7 the distance between axles, plus allowable scale tolerances.  
8 All axles shall be brake equipped. Trucks delivering asphalt  
9 plant mix which do not exceed the maximum allowable gross  
10 weight and operate within 50 miles of their home base shall  
11 not be required to conform to the requirements of paragraph  
12 (4)a of this section. Concrete mixing trucks which operate  
13 within 50 miles of their home base and do not exceed the  
14 maximum allowable gross weight ~~for the vehicle~~ shall not be  
15 required to conform to the requirements of paragraph (4)a of  
16 this section; ~~provided, that the vehicles shall be limited to~~  
17 ~~a maximum load of the rated capacity of the concrete mixer,~~  
18 ~~the true gross load not to exceed 66,000 pounds, and all the~~  
19 ~~vehicles shall have at least three axles, each with brake~~  
20 ~~equipped wheels.~~ It shall be a violation if the vehicles named  
21 under this subdivision travel upon bridges designated and  
22 posted by the Transportation Director as incapable of carrying  
23 the load.

24 "f. If the driver of any vehicle can comply with the  
25 weight requirements of this section by shifting or equalizing  
26 the load on all wheels or axles and does so when requested by

1 the proper authority, the driver shall not be held to be  
2 operating in violation of this section.

3 "g. When portable scales are used in the enforcement  
4 of this section, the axles of any vehicle described or  
5 commonly referred to as tandem or triaxle rigs or units (that  
6 is, vehicles having two or more axles in addition to a  
7 steering axle), the group of tandem or triaxles shall be  
8 weighed simultaneously, and the total weight so derived shall  
9 be divided by the number of axles weighed in the group to  
10 arrive at the per axle weight, except that if any one axle in  
11 the group exceeds 20,000 pounds in weight, it shall not exceed  
12 the weight of any other axle in the group by more than 50  
13 percent. When portable scales are used to determine the weight  
14 of a vehicle pursuant to this section, the operator of the  
15 vehicle will be permitted to move the vehicle to the nearest  
16 platform scales certified by the Department of Agriculture and  
17 Industries and operated by a bonded operator within a distance  
18 of 10 highway miles, accompanied by an enforcement officer to  
19 verify the accuracy of the portable scales used in determining  
20 the vehicle weight. If the weight of the vehicle is shown by  
21 the platform scales to be within the legal limits of this  
22 section, the operator of the vehicle shall not be held to be  
23 in violation of this section.

24 "h. The governing body of a county, by appropriate  
25 resolution, may authorize limitations less than those  
26 prescribed herein for vehicles operated upon the county  
27 highways of the county.

1            "i. The State Transportation Department may post or  
2 limit any road or bridge to weights less than those prescribed  
3 by this section. It is the legislative intent and purpose that  
4 this section be rigidly enforced by the State Transportation  
5 Department, the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency and any  
6 other authorized law enforcement officers of the state, any  
7 county, or city and incorporated towns.

8            "j. Two and three axle vehicles being used  
9 exclusively for the purpose of transporting agricultural  
10 commodities or products to and from a farm and for  
11 agricultural purposes relating to the operation and  
12 maintenance of a farm by any farmer, custom harvester or  
13 husbandman may not be made to conform to the axle requirements  
14 of paragraph (4)a of this section or the gross weight  
15 requirements of paragraph (4)c of this section.

16            "(b) (1) Any vehicle utilizing an auxiliary power or  
17 idle reduction technology unit in order to promote reduction  
18 of fuel use and emissions because of engine idling shall be  
19 allowed an additional 400 pounds total to the gross, axle,  
20 tandem, or bridge formula weight limits defined in this  
21 section.

22            "(2) To be eligible for the exception provided in  
23 this subsection, the operator of the vehicle must provide  
24 written proof or certification of the weight of the auxiliary  
25 power unit (APU) and demonstrate or certify the idle reduction  
26 technology is fully functional at all times.

1                   "(3) Written proof or certification of the weight of  
2 the APU must be available to law enforcement officers if the  
3 vehicle is found in violation of applicable weight laws. The  
4 weight allowed cannot exceed 400 pounds or the actual weight  
5 proven or certified, whichever is less.

6                   "(4) It is the intent of this subsection to apply at  
7 the state highway level the weight limit increase for vehicles  
8 using a functioning auxiliary power or idle reduction  
9 technology as provided in the Federal Energy Policy Act of  
10 2005."

11                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
12 first day of the third month following its passage and  
13 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-  
ferred to the House of Representa-  
tives committee on Public Safety  
and Homeland Security..... . . . . . 03-FEB-16

Read for the second time and placed  
on the calendar 1 amendment ..... . . . . . 17-FEB-16

Read for the third time and passed  
as amended..... . . . . . 08-MAR-16

Yeas 102, Nays 0, Abstains 1

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk