

SB110 ENGROSSED



1 SB110

2 2FDQISI-2

3 By Senators Williams, Sessions, Kelley, Beasley, Barfoot,

4 Stutts, Hatcher, Price, Chesteen, Smitherman, Livingston,

5 Allen, Bell, Shelnut, Kitchens, Roberts, Waggoner

6 RFD: Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

7 First Read: 05-Feb-25



SB110 Engrossed

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to trucks; to amend Section 32-9-20, as last amended by Act 2024-248, 2024 Regular Session, and Section 32-9-31, Code of Alabama 1975, to add certain trucks to those excepted from weight limits on highways; to revise and further provide procedures for using portable scales to enforce these weight limits; to revise the authority of individuals authorized to enforce these weight limits; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-9-20, as last amended by Act 2024-248, 2024 Regular Session, and Section 32-9-31, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§32-9-20

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

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

(2) LENGTH. No vehicle shall exceed in length 40 feet;



SB110 Engrossed

29 except, that the length of a truck-semitrailer combination,
30 semitrailers, including load, used in a truck
31 tractor-semitrailer combination, shall not exceed 57 feet;
32 semitrailers and trailers, including load, used in a truck
33 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, shall not exceed 28
34 1/2 feet each; and motor vehicles designed, used, or
35 maintained primarily as a mobile dwelling, office, or
36 commercial space, commonly called motor homes, shall not
37 exceed 45 feet. Semitrailers exceeding 53 1/2 feet shall only
38 be operated on highways designated pursuant to Section 32-9-1
39 and shall only be operated when the distance between the
40 kingpin of a semitrailer and the rearmost axle or a point
41 midway between the two rear axles, if the two rear axles are
42 tandem axles, does not exceed 41 feet and if the semitrailer
43 is equipped with a rear underride guard of a substantial
44 construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending
45 to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the
46 semitrailer and located not more than 22 inches from the
47 surface as measured with the semitrailer empty and on a level
48 surface. For purposes of enforcement of this subdivision,
49 lengths of semitrailers and trailers refer to the cargo
50 carrying portion of the unit. Truck tractor units used
51 exclusively in combinations transporting motor vehicles may
52 directly carry a portion of the cargo, provided that the
53 combinations are restricted to truck tractor-semitrailer
54 combinations only and provided further that the overall length
55 of these particular combinations shall not exceed 65 feet;
56 except that the overall length of stinger-steered type units



SB110 Engrossed

57 shall not exceed 80 feet. No truck tractor-semitrailer
58 combination used exclusively for transporting motor vehicles
59 shall carry any load extending more than four feet beyond the
60 front or six feet beyond the rear of the combination. No other
61 vehicle operated on a highway shall carry any load extending
62 more than a total of five feet beyond both the front and rear,
63 inclusive, of the vehicle.

64 (3) WEIGHT.

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

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

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

84
$$W=500 (LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36)$$



SB110 Engrossed

85 where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or
86 more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance
87 in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more
88 consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in the group under
89 consideration; except, that two consecutive sets of tandem
90 axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided
91 the overall distance between the first and last axles of the
92 consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more and the
93 overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including
94 the allowable load tolerance.

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

103 COMPUTED GROSS WEIGHT TABLE

104 For various spacings of axle groupings

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

108	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
-----	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

109	8 or less	36,000	42,000	42,000	
-----	-----------	--------	--------	--------	--

110	9	38,000	42,500	42,500	
-----	---	--------	--------	--------	--



SB110 Engrossed

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



SB110 Engrossed

132	31	63,500	67,000	72,500
133	32	64,500	68,000	73,500
134	33	65,000	69,000	74,000
135	34	65,500	70,000	74,500
136	35	66,500	71,000	75,000
137	36	67,000	72,000	76,000
138	37	68,000	73,000	77,000
139	38	69,000	74,000	78,000
140	39	70,000	75,000	79,000
141	40	71,000	76,000	80,000
142	41	72,000	77,000	81,000
143	42	73,000	78,000	82,000
144	43	74,000	79,000	83,000
145	44 and over	75,000	80,000	84,000

146 c. Special Permits. Except as provided by special
147 permits, no vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding the
148 gross weights specified in paragraph a. or b. shall be
149 permitted to travel on the public highways within the State of
150 Alabama.

151 d.1. Allowable Load Tolerance. For purposes of
152 enforcing this subdivision, all weights less than or equal to
153 the sum of the weight otherwise prescribed by this
154 subdivision, plus the allowable load tolerance, shall be
155 deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this



SB110 Engrossed

156 section and shall not constitute violations thereof. No
157 evidence shall be admitted into evidence or considered by the
158 trier of fact in any civil action unless the evidence
159 proffered would tend to prove that the weight of the vehicle
160 exceeded the amount provided in this subsection. Nothing in
161 this paragraph shall restrict or affect the right of any
162 defendant to place in evidence such evidence tending to prove
163 the defendant was in compliance with this section.

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

167 e. Special Trucks.

168 1. Dump trucks, dump trailers, concrete mixing trucks,
169 fuel oil, gasoline trucks, and trucks designated and
170 constructed for special type work or use shall not be made to
171 conform to the axle spacing requirements of paragraph b. ~~†,~~
172 ~~provided,~~ that the vehicle shall be limited to a weight of
173 20,000 pounds per axle plus the allowable load tolerance; and,
174 provided further, that the maximum gross weight of the
175 ~~vehicles~~ vehicle shall not exceed the maximum weight allowed
176 by this section for the appropriate number of axles,
177 irrespective of the distance between axles, plus the allowable
178 load tolerance. All axles shall be brake equipped.

179 2. Trucks delivering asphalt plant mix ~~which~~ that do
180 not exceed the maximum allowable gross weight and operate
181 within 50 miles of their home base shall not be required to
182 conform to the requirements of paragraph a.

183 3. Concrete mixing trucks that operate within 50 miles



SB110 Engrossed

184 of their home base and do not exceed the maximum allowable
185 gross weight shall not be required to conform to the
186 requirements of paragraph a.

187 4. It shall be is a violation if the vehicles a vehicle
188 named under this subdivision travel paragraph travels upon
189 bridges designated and posted by the ~~Transportation~~ Director
190 of Transportation as incapable of carrying the load.

191 f. Driver Compliance. If the driver of any vehicle can
192 comply with the weight requirements of this section by
193 shifting or equalizing the load on all wheels or axles and
194 does so when requested by the proper authority, the driver
195 shall not be held to be operating in violation of this
196 section.

197 g. Portable Scales.

198 1. When portable Portable scales are may be used in
199 enforcing to enforce this section, the. To determine the
200 weight of each axle, the axles of any vehicle described or
201 commonly referred to as tandem or triaxle rigs or units, that
202 is, vehicles having two or more axles in addition to a
203 steering axle, ~~the group of tandem or triaxles~~ shall be
204 weighed simultaneously, and the total weight so derived shall
205 be divided by the number of axles weighed in the group to
206 arrive at the per axle weight, except that if any one axle in
207 the group exceeds 20,000 pounds in weight, it shall not exceed
208 the weight of any other axle in the group by more than 50
209 percent.

210 2. When portable scales are used to enforce this
211 section determine and either the axle weight or the gross



SB110 Engrossed

212 weight of a vehicle ~~pursuant to~~ is determined to be in
213 violation of this section, if the operator of the vehicle
214 believes that the determination of a violation is based on
215 inaccuracies of the portable scales, the operator may do
216 either of the following:

217 (i) will be permitted to move Request that an
218 enforcement officer accompany the operator and vehicle to the
219 nearest platform scales certified by the Department of
220 Agriculture and Industries and operated by a bonded operator
221 within a distance of 10 highway miles, ~~accompanied by an~~
222 ~~enforcement officer~~ to verify the accuracy of the portable
223 scales used in determining the axle weight or gross weight of
224 the vehicle. If the axle weights or gross weight of the
225 vehicle is shown by the platform scales to be within the legal
226 limits of this section, including the allowable load
227 tolerance, the operator of the vehicle shall not be held to be
228 in violation of this section.

229 (ii) Proceed with the vehicle to the nearest platform
230 scales certified by the Department of Agriculture and
231 Industries and operated by a bonded operator within a distance
232 of 100 highway miles to verify the accuracy of the portable
233 scales used in determining the axle weight or gross weight of
234 the vehicle without being accompanied by an enforcement
235 officer. If the axle weights or gross weight of the vehicle is
236 shown by the platform scales to be within the legal limits of
237 this section, including the allowable load tolerance, the
238 operator of the vehicle shall not be held to be in violation
239 of this section upon providing a copy of the platform scale



SB110 Engrossed

240 weight ticket and an affidavit, to be established and provided
241 online by the court having jurisdiction over this matter
242 within 48 hours of being weighed by the portable scales. Upon
243 complying with this section, no court costs, fees, or
244 penalties shall apply.

245 3. When using portable scales to enforce this section,
246 not more than five vehicles may be detained at any one time,
247 including a vehicle being weighed

248 h. County Highways. The governing body of a county, by
249 appropriate resolution, may authorize limitations less than
250 those prescribed in this section for vehicles operated upon
251 the county highways of the county.

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

260 j. Agricultural Commodities. Two and three axle
261 vehicles being used exclusively for the purpose of
262 transporting agricultural commodities or products to and from
263 a farm and for agricultural purposes relating to the operation
264 and maintenance of a farm by any farmer, custom harvester, or
265 husbandman may not be made to conform to the axle requirements
266 of paragraph a. or the gross weight requirements of paragraph
267 b.



SB110 Engrossed

268 (4) WIDTH. Vehicles and combinations of vehicles
269 operating on highways shall not exceed a total outside width,
270 including any load thereon, of 102 inches, exclusive of
271 mirrors or other safety devices approved by the Department of
272 Transportation. No passenger vehicle shall carry any load
273 extending beyond the line of the fenders. No vehicle hauling
274 forest products or culvert pipe on any highway shall have a
275 load exceeding 102 inches in width.

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

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

287 (3) Written proof or certification of the weight of the
288 APU must be available to law enforcement officers if the
289 vehicle is found in violation of applicable weight laws. The
290 weight allowed may not exceed 400 pounds or the actual weight
291 proven or certified, whichever is less.

292 (4) It is the intent of this subsection to apply at the
293 state highway level the weight limit increase for vehicles
294 using a functioning auxiliary power or idle reduction
295 technology as provided in the Federal Energy Policy Act of



SB110 Engrossed

296 2005.

297 (c) (1) Any motor vehicle, if operated by an engine
298 fueled primarily by natural gas, may exceed any vehicle weight
299 limit, up to a maximum gross vehicle weight of 82,000 pounds,
300 under this section by an amount that is equal to the
301 difference between:

302 a. The weight of the vehicle attributable to the
303 natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle;
304 and

305 b. The weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling
306 system.

307 (2) This subsection applies on federal interstate
308 highways to the weight limit increases for vehicles using an
309 EPA certified natural gas engine or an EPA approved conversion
310 unit installed on the vehicle that allows the vehicle to
311 operate primarily on compressed natural gas or liquefied
312 natural gas.

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

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



SB110 Engrossed

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

327 "§32-9-31

328 Any officer enumerated in Section 32-9-3 having reason
329 to believe that the height, length, width, or weight of any
330 truck, semitrailer truck, or trailer is in excess of the
331 maximum limits prescribed by Section 32-9-20, or permitted by
332 any permit issued under authority of Section 32-9-29, is
333 authorized to measure or weigh ~~the same,~~ vehicle using either
334 ~~by means of portable or stationary scales, and may require~~
335 ~~such vehicle to be driven to the nearest stationary scales, in~~
336 ~~the event such scales are within a distance of five miles. All~~
337 ~~scales used for the weighing of vehicles as provided in this~~
338 ~~section shall be approved by the weights and measures division~~
339 ~~of the Department of Agriculture and Industries. The officer~~
340 ~~shall~~ may require the operator of the truck, semitrailer
341 truck, or trailer to unload ~~such~~ a portion of a load as ~~may be~~
342 necessary to decrease the gross weight of ~~such~~ the vehicle to
343 the maximum gross weight permitted by this title or by the
344 terms of any permit in the possession of ~~such~~ the operator and
345 issued under the provisions of Section 32-9-29 ~~(, which excess~~
346 ~~load, when unloaded, shall be at the sole risk of the owner),~~
347 or, at the election of the operator, the officer shall permit
348 the operator to move ~~such~~ the vehicle and its load to the
349 nearest incorporated town or the nearest court having
350 jurisdiction, at which place the excess load shall be
351 unloaded. The refusal of any ~~such~~ operator to permit his or



SB110 Engrossed

352 her truck, semitrailer truck, or trailer to be measured or
353 weighed, ~~or to proceed to a stationary scales~~ or to unload the
354 excess load ~~shall constitute~~, is a violation of this chapter."

355 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
356 1, 2025.

SB110 Engrossed



357
358
359 Senate

360 Read for the first time and referred05-Feb-25
361 to the Senate committee on
362 Agriculture, Conservation, and
363 Forestry

364
365 Read for the second time and placed12-Feb-25
366 on the calendar:
367 0 amendments

368
369 Read for the third time and passed01-Apr-25
370 as amended
371 Yeas 32
372 Nays 0
373 Abstains 0

374
375
376 Patrick Harris,
377 Secretary.
378