

**SB110 ENROLLED**



1 SB110  
2 2FDQISI-3  
3 By Senators Williams, Sessions, Kelley, Beasley, Barfoot,  
4 Stutts, Hatcher, Price, Chesteen, Smitherman, Livingston,  
5 Allen, Bell, Shelnutt, Kitchens, Roberts, Waggoner  
6 RFD: Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry  
7 First Read: 05-Feb-25



## SB110 Enrolled

Enrolled, 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; except, that the length of a truck-semitrailer combination, semitrailers, including load, used in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination, shall not exceed 57 feet; semitrailers and trailers, including load, used in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, shall not exceed 28



## SB110 Enrolled

1/2 feet each; and motor vehicles designed, used, or maintained primarily as a mobile dwelling, office, or commercial space, commonly called motor homes, shall not exceed 45 feet. Semitrailers exceeding 53 1/2 feet shall only be operated on highways designated pursuant to Section 32-9-1 and shall only be operated when the distance between the kingpin of a semitrailer and the rearmost axle or a point midway between the two rear axles, if the two rear axles are tandem axles, does not exceed 41 feet and if the semitrailer is equipped with a rear underride guard of a substantial construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the semitrailer and located not more than 22 inches from the surface as measured with the semitrailer empty and on a level surface. For purposes of enforcement of this subdivision, lengths of semitrailers and trailers refer to the cargo carrying portion of the unit. Truck tractor units used exclusively in combinations transporting motor vehicles may directly carry a portion of the cargo, provided that the combinations are restricted to truck tractor-semitrailer combinations only and provided further that the overall length of these particular combinations shall not exceed 65 feet; except that the overall length of stinger-steered type units shall not exceed 80 feet. No truck tractor-semitrailer combination used exclusively for transporting motor vehicles shall carry any load extending more than four feet beyond the front or six feet beyond the rear of the combination. No other vehicle operated on a highway shall carry any load extending



## SB110 Enrolled

more than a total of five feet beyond both the front and rear, inclusive, of the vehicle.

### (3) WEIGHT.

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

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

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

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

where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in the group under consideration; except, that two consecutive sets of tandem



## SB110 Enrolled

axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more and the overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including the allowable load tolerance.

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

### COMPUTED GROSS WEIGHT TABLE

For various spacings of axle groupings

Distance in feet between first and last axles of vehicle or combination of vehicles	Maximum load in pounds on all the axles
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	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
8 or less	36,000	42,000	42,000		
9	38,000	42,500	42,500		
10	40,000	43,500	43,500		
11		44,000	44,000		
12		45,000	50,000	50,000	
13		45,500	50,500	50,500	



## SB110 Enrolled

110	14	46,500	51,500	51,500	
111	15	47,000	52,000	52,000	
112	16	48,000	52,500	58,000	58,000
113	17	48,500	53,500	58,500	58,500
114	18	49,500	54,000	59,000	59,000
115	19	50,000	54,500	60,000	60,000
116	20	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
117	21	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
118	22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
119	23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
120	24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
121	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
122	26	56,000	59,500	64,000	69,500
123	27	57,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
124	28	59,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
125	29	60,000	61,500	66,000	71,500
126	30		62,000	66,500	72,000
127	31		63,500	67,000	72,500
128	32		64,500	68,000	73,500
129	33		65,000	69,000	74,000
130	34		65,500	70,000	74,500



## SB110 Enrolled

131	35	66,500	71,000	75,000
132	36	67,000	72,000	76,000
133	37	68,000	73,000	77,000
134	38	69,000	74,000	78,000
135	39	70,000	75,000	79,000
136	40	71,000	76,000	80,000
137	41	72,000	77,000	81,000
138	42	73,000	78,000	82,000
139	43	74,000	79,000	83,000
140	44 and over	75,000	80,000	84,000

141           c. Special Permits. Except as provided by special  
142 permits, no vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding the  
143 gross weights specified in paragraph a. or b. shall be  
144 permitted to travel on the public highways within the State of  
145 Alabama.

146           d.1. Allowable Load Tolerance. For purposes of  
147 enforcing this subdivision, all weights less than or equal to  
148 the sum of the weight otherwise prescribed by this  
149 subdivision, plus the allowable load tolerance, shall be  
150 deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this  
151 section and shall not constitute violations thereof. No  
152 evidence shall be admitted into evidence or considered by the  
153 trier of fact in any civil action unless the evidence  
154 proffered would tend to prove that the weight of the vehicle  
155 exceeded the amount provided in this subsection. Nothing in



## SB110 Enrolled

this paragraph shall restrict or affect the right of any defendant to place in evidence such evidence tending to prove the defendant was in compliance with this section.

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

e. Special Trucks.

1. Dump trucks, dump trailers, concrete mixing trucks, fuel oil, gasoline trucks, and trucks designated and constructed for special type work or use shall not be made to conform to the axle spacing requirements of paragraph b.~~7~~,1 provided~~7~~ that the vehicle shall be limited to a weight of 20,000 pounds per axle plus the allowable load tolerance; and, provided further, that the maximum gross weight of the ~~vehicles~~ vehicle shall not exceed the maximum weight allowed by this section for the appropriate number of axles, irrespective of the distance between axles, plus the allowable load tolerance. All axles shall be brake equipped.

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

3. Concrete mixing trucks that operate within 50 miles of their home base and do not exceed the maximum allowable gross weight shall not be required to conform to the requirements of paragraph a.

4. It ~~shall be~~ is a violation if ~~the vehicles~~ a vehicle named under this ~~subdivision travel~~ paragraph travels upon





## SB110 Enrolled

bridges designated and posted by the ~~Transportation~~ Director  
of Transportation as incapable of carrying the load.

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

g. Portable Scales.

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

2. When portable scales are used to enforce this  
section ~~determine~~ and either the axle weight or the gross  
weight of a vehicle ~~pursuant to~~ is determined to be in  
violation of this section, if the operator of the vehicle  
believes that the determination of a violation is based on  
inaccuracies of the portable scales, the operator may do  
either of the following:



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

224 (ii) Proceed with the vehicle to the nearest platform  
225 scales certified by the Department of Agriculture and  
226 Industries and operated by a bonded operator within a distance  
227 of 100 highway miles to verify the accuracy of the portable  
228 scales used in determining the axle weight or gross weight of  
229 the vehicle without being accompanied by an enforcement  
230 officer. If the axle weights or gross weight of the vehicle is  
231 shown by the platform scales to be within the legal limits of  
232 this section, including the allowable load tolerance, the  
233 operator of the vehicle shall not be held to be in violation  
234 of this section upon providing a copy of the platform scale  
235 weight ticket and an affidavit, to be established and provided  
236 online by the court having jurisdiction over this matter  
237 within 48 hours of being weighed by the portable scales. Upon  
238 complying with this section, no court costs, fees, or  
239 penalties shall apply.



## SB110 Enrolled

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

243           h. County Highways. The governing body of a county, by  
244 appropriate resolution, may authorize limitations less than  
245 those prescribed in this section for vehicles operated upon  
246 the county highways of the county.

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

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

263           (4) WIDTH. Vehicles and combinations of vehicles  
264 operating on highways shall not exceed a total outside width,  
265 including any load thereon, of 102 inches, exclusive of  
266 mirrors or other safety devices approved by the Department of  
267 Transportation. No passenger vehicle shall carry any load



## SB110 Enrolled

extending beyond the line of the fenders. No vehicle hauling forest products or culvert pipe on any highway shall have a load exceeding 102 inches in width.

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

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

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

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

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



## SB110 Enrolled

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           "§32-9-31

323           Any officer enumerated in Section 32-9-3 having reason



## SB110 Enrolled

to believe that the height, length, width, or weight of any truck, semitrailer truck, or trailer is in excess of the maximum limits prescribed by Section 32-9-20~~,~~ or permitted by any permit issued under authority of Section 32-9-29~~,~~ is authorized to measure or weigh the ~~same,~~ vehicle using either ~~by means of~~ portable or stationary scales~~, and may require such vehicle to be driven to the nearest stationary scales, in the event such scales are within a distance of five miles.~~ All scales used for ~~the weighing of~~ vehicles as provided in this section shall be approved by the weights and measures division of the Department of Agriculture and Industries. The officer ~~shall~~ may require the operator of the truck, semitrailer truck, or trailer to unload ~~such~~ a portion of a load as ~~may be~~ necessary to decrease the gross weight of ~~such~~ the vehicle to the maximum gross weight permitted by this title or by the terms of any permit in the possession of ~~such~~ the operator and issued under the provisions of Section 32-9-29~~(, which excess load, when unloaded, shall be at the sole risk of the owner),~~ , or, at the election of the operator, the officer shall permit the operator to move ~~such~~ the vehicle and its load to the nearest incorporated town or the nearest court having jurisdiction, at which place the excess load shall be unloaded. The refusal of any ~~such~~ operator to permit his or her truck, semitrailer truck, or trailer to be measured or weighed~~, or to proceed to a stationary scales~~ or to unload the excess load ~~shall constitute,~~ is a violation of this chapter."

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



**SB110 Enrolled**

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB110

Senate 01-Apr-25

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

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives

Passed: 29-Apr-25

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By: Senator Williams