

SB110 INTRODUCED



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



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, certain special trucks are provided exceptions to certain weight and length limits for highways in this state.

This bill would add certain trucks to those that are excepted from these weight limits.

Also under existing law, portable scales may be used to enforce these weight limits pursuant to certain specified procedures.

This bill would further provide for an operator of a vehicle to verify the accuracy of portable scales.

This bill would remove the authority of certain individuals to require vehicle operators to drive to stationary weigh scales to enforce these weight limits.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT



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57 exceed 45 feet. Semitrailers exceeding 53 1/2 feet shall only
58 be operated on highways designated pursuant to Section 32-9-1
59 and shall only be operated when the distance between the
60 kingpin of a semitrailer and the rearmost axle or a point
61 midway between the two rear axles, if the two rear axles are
62 tandem axles, does not exceed 41 feet and if the semitrailer
63 is equipped with a rear underride guard of a substantial
64 construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending
65 to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the
66 semitrailer and located not more than 22 inches from the
67 surface as measured with the semitrailer empty and on a level
68 surface. For purposes of enforcement of this subdivision,
69 lengths of semitrailers and trailers refer to the cargo
70 carrying portion of the unit. Truck tractor units used
71 exclusively in combinations transporting motor vehicles may
72 directly carry a portion of the cargo, provided that the
73 combinations are restricted to truck tractor-semitrailer
74 combinations only and provided further that the overall length
75 of these particular combinations shall not exceed 65 feet;
76 except that the overall length of stinger-steered type units
77 shall not exceed 80 feet. No truck tractor-semitrailer
78 combination used exclusively for transporting motor vehicles
79 shall carry any load extending more than four feet beyond the
80 front or six feet beyond the rear of the combination. No other
81 vehicle operated on a highway shall carry any load extending
82 more than a total of five feet beyond both the front and rear,
83 inclusive, of the vehicle.

84 (3) WEIGHT.



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137	16	48,000	52,500	58,000	58,000
138	17	48,500	53,500	58,500	58,500
139	18	49,500	54,000	59,000	59,000
140	19	50,000	54,500	60,000	60,000
141	20	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
142	21	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
143	22	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
144	23	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
145	24	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
146	25	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
147	26	56,000	59,500	64,000	69,500
148	27	57,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
149	28	59,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
150	29	60,000	61,500	66,000	71,500
151	30		62,000	66,500	72,000
152	31		63,500	67,000	72,500
153	32		64,500	68,000	73,500
154	33		65,000	69,000	74,000
155	34		65,500	70,000	74,500
156	35		66,500	71,000	75,000
157	36		67,000	72,000	76,000



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158	37	68,000	73,000	77,000
159	38	69,000	74,000	78,000
160	39	70,000	75,000	79,000
161	40	71,000	76,000	80,000
162	41	72,000	77,000	81,000
163	42	73,000	78,000	82,000
164	43	74,000	79,000	83,000
165	44 and over	75,000	80,000	84,000

166 c. Special Permits. Except as provided by special
167 permits, no vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeding the
168 gross weights specified in paragraph a. or b. shall be
169 permitted to travel on the public highways within the State of
170 Alabama.

171 d.1. Allowable Load Tolerance. For purposes of
172 enforcing this subdivision, all weights less than or equal to
173 the sum of the weight otherwise prescribed by this
174 subdivision, plus the allowable load tolerance, shall be
175 deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this
176 section and shall not constitute violations thereof. No
177 evidence shall be admitted into evidence or considered by the
178 trier of fact in any civil action unless the evidence
179 proffered would tend to prove that the weight of the vehicle
180 exceeded the amount provided in this subsection. Nothing in
181 this paragraph shall restrict or affect the right of any
182 defendant to place in evidence such evidence tending to prove



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267 (ii) Proceed with the vehicle to the nearest platform
268 scales certified by the Department of Agriculture and
269 Industries and operated by a bonded operator within a distance
270 of 100 highway miles to verify the accuracy of the portable
271 scales used in determining the axle weight or gross weight of
272 the vehicle without being accompanied by an enforcement
273 officer. If the axle weights or gross weight of the vehicle is
274 shown by the platform scales to be within the legal limits of
275 this section, including the allowable load tolerance, the
276 operator of the vehicle shall not be held to be in violation
277 of this section and any citation, if issued, shall be void
278 upon providing a copy of the platform scale weight ticket and
279 an affidavit, to be established and provided online by the
280 entity employing the enforcing officer, to the entity
281 employing the enforcing officer within 48 hours of being
282 weighed by the portable scales.

283 3. When using portable scales to enforce this section,
284 not more than three vehicles may be detained at any one time,
285 including a vehicle being weighed

286 h. County Highways. The governing body of a county, by
287 appropriate resolution, may authorize limitations less than
288 those prescribed in this section for vehicles operated upon
289 the county highways of the county.

290 i. Posted Roads and Bridges. The Department of
291 Transportation may post or limit any road or bridge to weights
292 less than those prescribed by this section. It is the
293 legislative intent and purpose that this section be rigidly
294 enforced by the Department of Transportation, the Alabama



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295 State Law Enforcement Agency, any other authorized law
296 enforcement officer of this state, and any county, city, and
297 incorporated town.

298 j. Agricultural Commodities. Two and three axle
299 vehicles being used exclusively for the purpose of
300 transporting agricultural commodities or products to and from
301 a farm and for agricultural purposes relating to the operation
302 and maintenance of a farm by any farmer, custom harvester, or
303 husbandman may not be made to conform to the axle requirements
304 of paragraph a. or the gross weight requirements of paragraph
305 b.

306 (4) WIDTH. Vehicles and combinations of vehicles
307 operating on highways shall not exceed a total outside width,
308 including any load thereon, of 102 inches, exclusive of
309 mirrors or other safety devices approved by the Department of
310 Transportation. No passenger vehicle shall carry any load
311 extending beyond the line of the fenders. No vehicle hauling
312 forest products or culvert pipe on any highway shall have a
313 load exceeding 102 inches in width.

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

320 (2) To be eligible for the exception provided in this
321 subsection, the operator of the vehicle must provide written
322 proof or certification of the weight of the auxiliary power



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

353 (1) Permitting size or weight limits on the National
354 System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this state in
355 excess of those permitted under 23 U.S.C. § 127. If the
356 federal government prescribes or adopts vehicle size or weight
357 limits greater than or less than those now prescribed by 23
358 U.S.C. § 127 for the National System of Interstate and Defense
359 Highways, the increased or decreased limits shall become
360 effective on the National System of Interstate and Defense
361 Highways in this state.

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

365 "§32-9-31

366 Any officer enumerated in Section 32-9-3 having reason
367 to believe that the height, length, width, or weight of any
368 truck, semitrailer truck, or trailer is in excess of the
369 maximum limits prescribed by Section 32-9-20, or permitted by
370 any permit issued under authority of Section 32-9-29, is
371 authorized to measure or weigh the ~~same,~~ vehicle using either
372 ~~by means of~~ portable or stationary scales, ~~and may require~~
373 ~~such vehicle to be driven to the nearest stationary scales, in~~
374 ~~the event such scales are within a distance of five miles.~~ All
375 scales used for ~~the weighing of~~ vehicles as provided in this
376 section shall be approved by the weights and measures division
377 of the Department of Agriculture and Industries. The officer
378 ~~shall~~ may require the operator of the truck, semitrailer



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379 truck, or trailer to unload ~~such~~ a portion of a load as ~~may be~~
380 necessary to decrease the gross weight of ~~such~~ the vehicle to
381 the maximum gross weight permitted by this title or by the
382 terms of any permit in the possession of ~~such~~ the operator and
383 issued under the provisions of Section 32-9-29 ~~(, which excess~~
384 load, when unloaded, shall be at the sole risk of the owner), ,
385 or, at the election of the operator, the officer shall permit
386 the operator to move ~~such~~ the vehicle and its load to the
387 nearest incorporated town or the nearest court having
388 jurisdiction, at which place the excess load shall be
389 unloaded. The refusal of any ~~such~~ operator to permit his or
390 her truck, semitrailer truck, or trailer to be measured or
391 weighed, ~~or to proceed to a stationary scales~~ or to unload the
392 excess load ~~shall constitute~~, is a violation of this chapter."

393 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
394 1, 2025.