



OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARQUES

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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, vehicles and combinations of vehicles, including any load on the vehicle, may not exceed a total outside width of 102 inches, with an exception for mirrors or other safety equipment.

This bill would include within this exception equipment that is an integral part of an automated driving system, including sensors, cameras, and lighting equipment, provided the total outside width does not exceed 122 inches.

Under existing law, the Department of Transportation may issue a permit to authorize an applicant to operate a vehicle whose weight, width, length, or height, or combination thereof, exceeds the statutory maximum limits.

This bill would authorize the department to issue an oversized vehicle permit for a vehicle equipped with an automated driving system (ADS).

This bill would also provide that the statutory authorization for the operation of ADS-equipped vehicles does not impose any legal duty to upgrade any part of the state or local transportation network to accommodate such ADS-equipped vehicles.



29 A BILL
30 TO BE ENTITLED
31 AN ACT

32
33 Relating to motor vehicles; to amend Sections 32-9-20,
34 32-9-29, and 32-9C-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide a
35 limited exception to the width restrictions of motor vehicles
36 for purposes of automated driving system equipment; to
37 authorize vehicles equipped with automated driving systems to
38 receive an oversized vehicle permit; and to further provide
39 for the relation of ADS-equipped vehicles to other laws and
40 requirements.

41 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

42 Section 1. Sections 32-9-20, 32-9-29, and 32-9C-6, Code
43 of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

44 "§32-9-20

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

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

50 (2) LENGTH. No vehicle shall exceed in length 40 feet;
51 except, that the length of a truck-semitrailer combination,
52 semitrailers, including load, used in a truck
53 tractor-semitrailer combination, shall not exceed 57 feet;
54 semitrailers and trailers, including load, used in a truck
55 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, shall not exceed 28
56 1/2 feet each; and motor vehicles designed, used, or



113 the overall distance between the first and last axles of the
 114 consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more and the
 115 overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including
 116 the allowable load tolerance.

117 b. Gross Weight. Subject to the limit upon the weight
 118 imposed upon the highway through any one axle as set forth
 119 herein, the total weight with load imposed upon the highway by
 120 all the axles of a vehicle or combination of vehicles shall
 121 not exceed the gross weight given for the respective distances
 122 between the first and last axle of the vehicle or combination
 123 of vehicles, measured longitudinally to the nearest foot as
 124 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	
	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		
14		46,500	51,500	51,500		
15		47,000	52,000	52,000		
16		48,000	52,500	58,000	58,000	



140	17		48,500	53,500	58,500	58,500
141	18		49,500	54,000	59,000	59,000
142	19		50,000	54,500	60,000	60,000
143	20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000
144	21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500
145	22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000
146	23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000
147	24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500
148	25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000
149	26		56,000	59,500	64,000	69,500
150	27		57,000	60,000	65,000	70,000
151	28		59,000	60,500	65,500	71,000
152	29		60,000	61,500	66,000	71,500
153	30			62,000	66,500	72,000
154	31			63,500	67,000	72,500
155	32			64,500	68,000	73,500
156	33			65,000	69,000	74,000
157	34			65,500	70,000	74,500
158	35			66,500	71,000	75,000
159	36			67,000	72,000	76,000
160	37			68,000	73,000	77,000
161	38			69,000	74,000	78,000
162	39			70,000	75,000	79,000
163	40			71,000	76,000	80,000
164	41			72,000	77,000	81,000
165	42			73,000	78,000	82,000



166	43		74,000	79,000	83,000
167	44 and over		75,000	80,000	84,000

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

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

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

189 e. Special Trucks.

190 1. Dump trucks, dump trailers, concrete mixing trucks,
 191 fuel oil, gasoline trucks, and trucks designated and
 192 constructed for special type work or use shall not be made to
 193 conform to the axle spacing requirements of paragraph b.,



194 provided that the vehicle shall be limited to a weight of
195 20,000 pounds per axle plus the allowable load tolerance; and,
196 provided further, that the maximum gross weight of the vehicle
197 shall not exceed the maximum weight allowed by this section
198 for the appropriate number of axles, irrespective of the
199 distance between axles, plus the allowable load tolerance. All
200 axles shall be brake equipped.

201 2. Trucks delivering asphalt plant mix that do not
202 exceed the maximum allowable gross weight and operate within
203 50 miles of their home base shall not be required to conform
204 to the requirements of paragraph a.

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

209 4. It is a violation if a vehicle named under this
210 paragraph travels upon bridges designated and posted by the
211 Director of Transportation as incapable of carrying the load.

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

218 g. Portable Scales.

219 1. Portable scales may be used to enforce this section.
220 To determine the weight of each axle, the axles of any vehicle
221 described or commonly referred to as tandem or triaxle rigs or



250 the vehicle without being accompanied by an enforcement
251 officer. If the axle weights or gross weight of the vehicle is
252 shown by the platform scales to be within the legal limits of
253 this section, including the allowable load tolerance, the
254 operator of the vehicle shall not be held to be in violation
255 of this section upon providing a copy of the platform scale
256 weight ticket and an affidavit, to be established and provided
257 online by the court having jurisdiction over this matter
258 within 48 hours of being weighed by the portable scales. Upon
259 complying with this section, no court costs, fees, or
260 penalties shall apply.

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

264 h. County Highways. The governing body of a county, by
265 appropriate resolution, may authorize limitations less than
266 those prescribed in this section for vehicles operated upon
267 the county highways of the county.

268 i. Posted Roads and Bridges. The Department of
269 Transportation may post or limit any road or bridge to weights
270 less than those prescribed by this section. It is the
271 legislative intent and purpose that this section be rigidly
272 enforced by the Department of Transportation, the Alabama
273 State Law Enforcement Agency, any other authorized law
274 enforcement officer of this state, and any county, city, and
275 incorporated town.

276 j. Agricultural Commodities. Two and three axle
277 vehicles being used exclusively for the purpose of



334 unit installed on the vehicle that allows the vehicle to
335 operate primarily on compressed natural gas or liquefied
336 natural gas.

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

339 (1) Permitting size or weight limits on the National
340 System of Interstate and Defense Highways in this state in
341 excess of those permitted under 23 U.S.C. § 127. If the
342 federal government prescribes or adopts vehicle size or weight
343 limits greater than or less than those now prescribed by 23
344 U.S.C. § 127 for the National System of Interstate and Defense
345 Highways, the increased or decreased limits shall become
346 effective on the National System of Interstate and Defense
347 Highways in this state.

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

351 "§32-9-29

352 (a) Authorized; application; issuance; seasonal, etc.,
353 limitations; refusal, revocation, or cancellation.

354 (1) The Director of the State Department of
355 Transportation or the official of the department designated by
356 the director, upon application and for good cause being shown
357 therefor, may issue a permit in writing authorizing the
358 applicant to operate or move upon the state's public roads a
359 vehicle or combination of no more than two vehicles and loads
360 whose weight, width, length, or height, or combination
361 thereof, exceeds the maximum limit specified by law[†].



362 provided, that the load transported by such vehicle or
363 vehicles is of such nature that it is a unit ~~which~~that cannot
364 be readily dismantled or separated, ~~provided, however,~~ that
365 bulldozers and similar construction equipment shall not be
366 deemed readily separable for purposes of this chapter; and
367 further provided, that no permit shall be issued to any
368 vehicle whose operation upon the public roads of this state
369 threatens to unduly damage a road or any appurtenances
370 thereto.

371 (2) Permits may be issued on application to the
372 department to ~~persons, firms, or corporations~~individuals or
373 entities. The director shall adopt reasonable rules ~~which~~that
374 are necessary or desirable governing the issuance of the
375 permits; ~~provided, that the~~ The rules shall not conflict with
376 this title and other provisions of law.

377 (3) The original copy of every permit shall be carried
378 in the vehicle itself and shall be open to inspection by any
379 law enforcement officer or authorized agent of the department.

380 (4) The application for any permit shall specifically
381 describe the type of permit applied for, as described in
382 subsection (b), and the application for a single trip permit,
383 in addition, shall describe the points of departure and
384 destination.

385 (5) The director or the official of the department
386 designated by the director may withhold ~~such~~a permit or, if
387 ~~such~~a permit is issued, may establish seasonal or other time
388 limitations within which the vehicles described may be
389 operated on the public road indicated, ~~or~~ or may otherwise limit



446 a vehicle, including enforcement tolerances, which exceeds 16
447 feet in width, exceeds 18 feet in height, or exceeds a single
448 axle weight of 27,000 pounds. In addition, the permit may not
449 authorize the operation of the vehicle on any bridge, over or
450 under any overpass, or on an interstate highway. The fee for
451 the annual permit shall be one hundred dollars (\$100).

452 (2) SINGLE TRIP. The director may issue a single trip
453 permit, pursuant to this section, to any vehicle. Nothing in
454 this chapter shall be construed to require the State
455 Department of Transportation to allow the use of automated
456 driving systems or ADS-equipped vehicles in operations
457 requiring a single trip permit under this article.

458 (c) Fees. The director may adopt rules concerning the
459 issuance of permits and charge a fee for the issuance as
460 follows:

461 (1) ANNUAL. Charges for the issuance of annual permits
462 shall be as follows:

463 a. For modular homes, sectional houses, portable
464 buildings, boats, and any vehicle or combination of vehicles,
465 one hundred dollars ~~(\$100.00);~~ (\$100), except, that a vehicle
466 or combination of vehicles having trailer or combination of
467 trailers with sidewalls or roof which has transported modular
468 homes, sectional houses, and portable buildings, after
469 depositing any load, may return unloaded to its point of
470 origin, even though the unloaded vehicles exceed the 55-foot
471 limitation provided for in this article, up to and including
472 12 feet wide and 75 feet long.

473 b. For heavy commodities or equipment, overweight,



502	From 80,001 pounds up to 100,000 pounds	\$ 10.00 <u>10</u>
503 504 505	From 100,001 pounds up to 125,000 pounds	30.00 <u>30</u>
506 507 508	From 125,001 pounds up to 150,000 pounds	60.00 <u>60</u>
509	From 150,001 pounds and over	100.00 <u>100</u>

510 c. Miscellaneous:

511 1. Houses, twenty dollars ~~(\$20.00)~~ (\$20).

512 2. Off-the-road equipment, ten dollars ~~(\$10.00)~~ (\$10).

513 3. Other oversized vehicles, loads, and equipment not
514 herein specified, twenty dollars ~~(\$20.00)~~ (\$20).

515 4. Other overheight loads not herein specified, ten
516 dollars ~~(\$10.00)~~ (\$10).

517 (d) Certain vehicles on interstate highways. Under this
518 section, 14 feet-wide vehicles and combination vehicles and
519 load may be issued a permit to travel the interstate highways.

520 (e) The Director of the State Department of
521 Transportation, by rule, may establish limits for combinations
522 of commercial wreckers and towed disabled or abandoned
523 vehicles that exceed the maximum height, weight, or length
524 limitations established by law. The director may establish a
525 permitting method for commercial wreckers and may establish a
526 fee for any permits that are issued. The director may
527 authorize exceptions to any permit required under this
528 subsection or may waive any permit required under this
529 subsection under emergency, exigent, or other extraordinary



558 ADS-equipped vehicles, automated driving systems, or automated
559 commercial motor vehicles as defined in Section 32-9B-1,
560 except as specifically authorized by this chapter. Nothing in
561 this section shall be construed to repeal or in any way modify
562 Section 32-9-29.

563 (c) No municipality or other local or state entity may
564 impose a tax on, or impose requirements on, ADS-equipped
565 vehicles or automated driving systems, where the tax or other
566 requirement relates specifically to the operation of
567 ADS-equipped vehicles.

568 (d) Nothing in this chapter creates a legal duty or
569 otherwise requires the state or any county or municipality to
570 upgrade any part of its transportation network to accommodate
571 the operation of ADS-equipped vehicles or automated driving
572 systems."

573 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
574 1, 2026.