

HB204 INTRODUCED



1 HB204
2 XNKBEE7-1
3 By Representatives Givens, Mooney, Moore (P), Almond, Collins,
4 Gidley, Travis, Hammett, Hulsey, Woods, Colvin, Brinyark,
5 Robertson, Shirey, Butler, Rehm, Lands, Fidler, Holk-Jones,
6 Easterbrook
7 RFD: Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure
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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



HB204 INTRODUCED

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

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

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

$$104 \quad W=500 (LN/(N-1) + 12N + 36)$$

105 where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or
106 more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L = distance
107 in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more
108 consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in the group under
109 consideration; except, that two consecutive sets of tandem
110 axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each, provided
111 the overall distance between the first and last axles of the
112 consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more and the



HB204 INTRODUCED

113 overall gross weight may not exceed 80,000 pounds, including
114 the allowable load tolerance.

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

123 COMPUTED GROSS WEIGHT TABLE

124 For various spacings of axle groupings

125	Distance in feet between first and	Maximum load in
126	last axles of vehicle or combination	pounds on all the
127	of vehicles	axles

128	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles
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129	8 or less	36,000	42,000	42,000	
130	9	38,000	42,500	42,500	
131	10	40,000	43,500	43,500	
132	11		44,000	44,000	
133	12		45,000	50,000	50,000
134	13		45,500	50,500	50,500
135	14		46,500	51,500	51,500
136	15		47,000	52,000	52,000



HB204 INTRODUCED

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



HB204 INTRODUCED

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



HB204 INTRODUCED

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



HB204 INTRODUCED

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

