

The House Committee on Transportation offers the following substitute to HB 301:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to dimensions and weights of vehicles and loads, so as to allow a variance for certain  
3 vehicles; to provide for excess weight to be offloaded at a reasonable location; to provide for  
4 related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 dimensions and weights of vehicles and loads, is amended by revising subsection (g) of Code  
10 Section 32-6-26, relating to the maximum weights for vehicles and loads, as follows:

11 "(g)(1) The weight limitations provided for in this Code section, except the limitation in  
12 subsections (f) and (h) of this Code section, may be exceeded on any public road within  
13 this state which is not an interstate highway, or when making a pickup or delivery on any  
14 public road of a county road system, without a permit only when the load on any single  
15 axle does not exceed 23,000 pounds, the load on any tandem axle does not exceed 46,000  
16 pounds, and the maximum total gross weight of the vehicle and load does not exceed  
17 80,000 pounds when:

- 18 (A) Hauling forest products from the forest where cut to the first point of marketing or
- 19 processing;
- 20 (B) Hauling live poultry or cotton from a farm to a processing plant;
- 21 (C) Hauling feed from a feed mill to a farm;
- 22 (D) Hauling granite, either block or sawed, or any other naturally occurring raw ore or
- 23 mineral for further processing, from the quarry or stockpile area to a processing plant
- 24 located in the same or an adjoining county and construction aggregates hauled to any
- 25 point, unless otherwise prohibited;

- 26 (E) Hauling solid waste or recovered materials from points of generation to a solid  
 27 waste handling facility or other processing facility; ~~or~~  
 28 (F) Hauling concrete that is in a freshly mixed and unhardened state for delivery to a  
 29 customer;:  
 30 (G) Hauling poultry waste from the point of origin to a farm;  
 31 (H) Hauling tree bark from the point of origin to the point of sale; or  
 32 (I) Hauling hot mixed asphalt and construction debris.

33 No lift axle may be used in computing the maximum total gross weight authorized for  
 34 any vehicle or load under this paragraph.

35 (2) A vehicle which is hauling the products listed in subparagraph (A), ~~or (B)~~, or (H) of  
 36 paragraph (1) of this subsection or which is hauling any other agricultural or farm product  
 37 from a farm to the first point of marketing or processing shall be permitted a 5 percent  
 38 variance from the weight limitations in paragraph (1) of this subsection ~~within a 100 mile~~  
 39 ~~radius of the farm or point of origin.~~ Any person who violates the load limitations  
 40 provided for in this paragraph by exceeding the 5 percent variance per single axle,  
 41 tandem axle, or maximum total gross weight shall be fined on the basis of the weight  
 42 limitations of paragraph (1) of this subsection, including the variance allowed by this  
 43 paragraph.

44 (3) A vehicle which is hauling the products listed in subparagraph (C), (D), ~~or (F)~~, or (I)  
 45 of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be permitted a 5 percent variance from the  
 46 weight limitations in paragraph (1) of this subsection within a 100 mile radius of the farm  
 47 or point of origin. Any person who violates the load limitations provided for in this  
 48 paragraph by exceeding the 5 percent variance per single axle, tandem axle, or maximum  
 49 total gross weight shall be fined on the basis of the weight limitations of paragraph (1)  
 50 of this subsection and not on the basis of the variance allowed by this paragraph.

51 (4) A vehicle which is hauling the products listed in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1)  
 52 of this subsection shall be permitted a 10 percent variance from the weight limitations in  
 53 paragraph (1) of this subsection. Any person who violates the load limitations provided  
 54 for in this paragraph by exceeding the 10 percent variance per single axle, tandem axle,  
 55 or maximum total gross weight shall be fined on the basis of the weight limitations of  
 56 paragraph (1) of this subsection, including the variance allowed by this paragraph.

57 (5) Any vehicle carrying a load as authorized in this subsection at night shall be equipped  
 58 with lights clearly visible for a distance of not less than 300 feet from the front and rear  
 59 of the vehicle."

60 **SECTION 2.**

61 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 32-6-27, relating  
62 to the enforcement of load limitations, as follows:

63 "(e) Any owner or operator of a vehicle which is operated on the public roads of this state  
64 in violation of the weight limitations provided in this article shall be required, in addition  
65 to paying the moneys provided in subsection (a) of this Code section, to unload all gross  
66 weight in excess of 6,000 pounds over the legal weight limit ~~before being allowed to move~~  
67 ~~the vehicle~~ at the closest reasonable location."

68 **SECTION 3.**

69 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2011.

70 **SECTION 4.**

71 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.