

Senate Bill 54

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Staton of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Miller of the 49th, Jackson of the 24th and others

AS PASSED

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 regulation of maintenance and use of public roads generally, so as to provide for changes to
3 the requirements for permits for extra weight and dimensions for loads on vehicles; to allow
4 multitrip permits; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 6 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of
9 maintenance and use of public roads generally, is amended by revising subsection (g) of
10 Code Section 32-6-26, relating to 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; or

30 (G) Hauling poultry waste from the point of origin to a farm.

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

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

42 (3) A vehicle which is hauling the products listed in subparagraph ~~(C), (D), or (F)~~ (G)
43 of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be permitted a 5 percent variance from the
44 weight limitations in paragraph (1) of this subsection within a ~~100~~ 250 mile radius of the
45 farm or point of origin. Any person who violates the load limitations provided for in this
46 paragraph by exceeding the 5 percent variance per single axle, tandem axle, or maximum
47 total gross weight shall be fined on the basis of the weight limitations of paragraph (1)
48 of this subsection and not on the basis of the variance allowed by this paragraph.

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

52 SECTION 2.

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

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

60 **SECTION 3.**

61 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) and adding a new
62 paragraph to subsection (b) of Code Section 32-6-28, relating to permits for extra weight and
63 dimensions for loads on vehicles, as follows:

64 "(4) The application for any such permit shall ~~specifically~~ describe the type of permit
65 applied for, as said types of permits are described in subsection (c) of this Code section.
66 In addition, the application for a single-trip permit shall describe the points of departure
67 and destination."

68 "(4) **Multitrip.** Pursuant to this Code section, the commissioner may issue a multitrip
69 permit to any vehicle or load allowed by federal law. A multitrip permit authorizes the
70 permitted load to return to its original destination on the same permit, if done so within
71 ten days, with the same vehicle configuration, and following the same route, unless
72 otherwise specified by the department. A multitrip permit authorizes unlimited permitted
73 loads on the same permit, if done so within the allowable ten days, with the same vehicle
74 configuration, and following the same route."

75 **SECTION 4.**

76 Said chapter is further amended in said Code section by adding a new paragraph to
77 subsection (c), to read as follows:

78 "(5) **Multitrip.** Charges for the issuance of multitrip permits shall be \$100.00 for any
79 load not greater than 16 feet wide, not greater than 16 feet high, and not weighing more
80 than 150,000 pounds or any load greater than 100 feet long which does not exceed the
81 maximum width, height, and weight limits specified by this paragraph."

82 **SECTION 5.**

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

84 **SECTION 6.**

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