

By: Representative Compretta

To: Transportation

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1121

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE USE OF AUXILIARY WHITE LIGHTS MOUNTED ON OR VISIBLE  
3 FROM THE REAR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH A GROSS WEIGHT NOT TO EXCEED  
4 12,001 POUNDS IF THE LIGHTS ARE DESIGNED BY THE MOTOR VEHICLE  
5 MANUFACTURER SO THAT THEY MAY ONLY BE ILLUMINATED WHENEVER THE  
6 VEHICLE IS NOT IN MOTION AND THE TRANSMISSION OF THE VEHICLE IS IN  
7 THE PARK POSITION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 SECTION 1. Section 63-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 63-7-23. The color of lighting devices shall be as follows:

12 (a) All front clearance lamps, and all side marker  
13 lamps, except the one on each side at or near the rear of any bus,  
14 truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer or pole trailer,  
15 shall when lighted display an amber color.

16 (b) No red lighting device of any character shall be  
17 mounted at any place other than on or near the rear of any bus,  
18 truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer or pole trailer.  
19 However, school buses owned by or under contract with a school  
20 district of this state may have affixed at or near the front end  
21 thereof red lighting devices that may be caused to blink when the  
22 school bus is stopped or in the process of stopping for the  
23 purpose of loading or unloading school children. A school bus  
24 also may be equipped with a white, flashing strobe light on the  
25 roof of the vehicle installed according to standards promulgated  
26 by the Mississippi Department of Education as authorized under  
27 Section 37-41-1(c).

28 (c) All rear clearance lamps, the side marker lamps on  
29 each side at or near the rear, and any other lamps mounted on the  
30 rear, on any bus, truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer  
31 or pole trailer shall when lighted display a red color. However,  
32 the stoplight or other warning device on the rear of any motor  
33 vehicle may be red or amber.

34 (d) Backing lights of any color may be mounted on the  
35 rear of any motor vehicle if the switch controlling such lights be  
36 so arranged that they may be turned on only when the vehicle is in  
37 reverse gear. Such backing lights when unlighted shall be so  
38 colored or otherwise arranged as not to reflect objectionable  
39 glare in the eyes of drivers of vehicles approaching from the  
40 rear.

41 (e) Auxiliary white lights mounted on or near the rear  
42 of a motor vehicle, or visible from the rear of the vehicle, are  
43 not prohibited under the provisions of this section if (i) the  
44 gross weight of the vehicle does not exceed twelve thousand one  
45 pounds (12,001) and (ii) the lights are designed by the motor  
46 vehicle manufacturer so that they may only be illuminated whenever  
47 the vehicle is not in motion and the transmission of the vehicle  
48 is in the park position.

49 No provision of this section shall be so construed as to  
50 prohibit the use of any white light or lights for the purpose of  
51 illuminating license plates.

52 Any lamps on a vehicle, other than those expressly required  
53 or permitted by the provisions of this chapter, shall, if visible  
54 from the front, display a white or amber light; if visible from  
55 either side, display an amber light; and if visible from the rear,  
56 display a red light.

57 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
58 and after July 1, 2001.