AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-5-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENT OF SAFETY CONNECTIONS FOR A TOWED VEHICLE;
AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 63-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

63-5-25. (1) Every trailer which shall be towed on the
public highways at a speed in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour
shall be coupled to the towing vehicle by means of a safety chain,
chains, cables, or equivalent devices in addition to the regular
trailer hitch or coupling. All safety chains and attachments also
shall have a positive means of ensuring that the safety connection
or attachment does not become dislodged while in transit. This
requirement does not apply to a semitrailer having a connecting
device composed of a fifth wheel and kingpin assembly meeting the
requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission, nor to a pole,
pipe, casing, long or piling dolly. No more slack shall be left
in any such safety chains, cables or equivalent devices than shall
be necessary to permit proper turning. The safety chains, cables
or equivalent device shall be so connected to the towed and towing
vehicles and to the drawbar to prevent the drawbar from dropping
to the ground if the drawbar fails, and shall be of sufficient
strength to control the trailer in event of failure of the regular
trailer hitch or coupling.

(2) When one (1) vehicle is towing another the drawbar or
other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all
weight towed thereby. Said drawbar or other connection shall not
(3) When one (1) vehicle is towing another and the connection consists of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve (12) inches square.

(4) No more than three (3) vehicles in combination shall be towed by saddle-mounts, provided the overall length of the towing and towed vehicles shall not exceed seventy-five (75) feet in length. No more than one (1) motor vehicle shall be towed by tow bar.

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