To: Judiciary

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE                                REGULAR SESSION 2001
By: Senator(s) Turner                                  To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2571

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-2-1 AND 63-2-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE
OF 1972, TO REQUIRE ALL PASSENGERS OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES TO BE
PROPERLY RESTRAINED WHILE THE VEHICLE IS IN MOTION AND TO MAKE A
VIOLATION A PRIMARY OFFENSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 63-2-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

63-2-1. (1) When a passenger motor vehicle is operated in
forward motion on a public road, street or highways within this
state, every operator and every passenger shall wear a
properly fastened safety seat belt system, required to be
installed in the vehicle when manufactured pursuant to Federal
Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208. Children under the age of four
(4) years shall be protected as required by Sections 63-7-301
through 63-7-313.

(2) "Passenger motor vehicle" for purposes of this chapter
means a motor vehicle designed to carry fifteen (15) or fewer
passengers, including the driver, but does not include
motorcycles, mopeds, all-terrain vehicles or trailers.

(3) This section shall not apply to:

(a) Vehicles which may be registered for "farm" use,
including "implements of husbandry" as defined in Section
63-21-5(d), and "farm tractors" as defined in Section 63-3-105(a);

(b) An operator or passenger possessing a written
verification from a licensed physician that he is unable to wear a
safety belt system for medical reasons;
ST: Seat belts; failure to wear a primary offense.

(c) A passenger car operated by a rural letter carrier of the United States postal Service or by a utility meter reader while on duty; or

(d) Buses.

SECTION 2. Section 63-2-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

63-2-7. (1) A violation of this chapter shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) upon conviction; however, only the operator of a vehicle may be fined for a violation of this chapter by the operator or for a violation of this chapter by a passenger. * * * The maximum fine that may be imposed against the operator of a vehicle for a violation of this chapter by the operator or for a violation of this chapter by one or more passengers shall be Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) in the aggregate.

(2) A violation of this chapter shall not be entered on the driving record of any individual so convicted, nor shall any state assessment provided for by Section 99-19-73, or any other state law, be imposed or collected.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.