

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2737

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ALLOW THE USE OF WHITE LIGHTS TO ILLUMINATE THE AREA TO THE REAR
3 OF A VEHICLE IF THE SWITCH CONTROLLING SUCH LIGHT MAY BE ARRANGED
4 SO THAT SUCH LIGHTS MAY BE TURNED ON ONLY WHEN THE VEHICLE IS
5 STOPPED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 63-7-23. (1) The color of lighting devices shall be as
10 follows:

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

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

27 (c) All rear clearance lamps, the side-marker lamps on
28 each side at or near the rear, and any other lamps mounted on the

29 rear, on any bus, truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer
30 or pole trailer shall when lighted display a red color. However,
31 the stop light or other warning device on the rear of any motor
32 vehicle may be red or amber.

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

40 (2) No provision of this section shall be so construed as to
41 prohibit the use of any white light or lights for the purpose of
42 illuminating license plates. No provision of this section shall
43 be so construed as to prohibit the use of any white light or
44 lights for the purpose of illuminating an area to the rear of a
45 vehicle if the switch controlling such light or lights can be
46 arranged so that such lights may only be turned on when the
47 vehicle is stopped.

48 (3) Any lamps on a vehicle, other than those expressly
49 required or permitted by the provisions of this chapter, shall, if
50 visible from the front, display a white or amber light; if visible
51 from either side, display an amber light; and if visible from the
52 rear, display a red light.

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