

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and  
Transportation

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2737

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 ALLOW THE USE OF CERTAIN AUXILIARY WHITE LIGHTS MOUNTED ON OR NEAR  
3 THE REAR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR  
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 63-7-23. (1) The color of lighting devices shall be as  
9 follows:

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

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

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

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

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

39 (2) No provision of this section shall be so construed as to  
40 prohibit the use of any white light or lights for the purpose of  
41 illuminating license plates.

42 (3) Auxiliary white lights mounted on or near the rear of a  
43 motor vehicle, or visible from the rear of the vehicle, shall not  
44 be prohibited under the provisions of this section if (a) the  
45 vehicle's gross weight is less than twelve thousand one (12,001)  
46 pounds, and (b) the lights are designed by the motor vehicle  
47 manufacturer so that they may only be illuminated whenever the  
48 vehicle is not in motion and the transmission of the vehicle is in  
49 the park position. The provisions of this subsection regarding  
50 the vehicle not being in motion and its transmission being in the  
51 park position shall not apply to illumination clearly intended to  
52 light the cargo area of any vehicle, provided such illumination  
53 does not reflect objectionable glare or lighting in the eyes of  
54 drivers of vehicles approaching from the rear.

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

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