

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2737  
(As Sent to Governor)

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 OR AN AFTER-MARKET PARTS MANUFACTURER SO THAT THEY  
6 MAY ONLY BE ILLUMINATED WHENEVER THE TRANSMISSION OF THE VEHICLE  
7 IS NOT CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING POWER TO THE WHEELS; AND FOR  
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

12 63-7-23. (1) The color of lighting devices shall be as  
13 follows:

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

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

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

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

43 (2) Auxiliary white lights mounted on or near the rear of a  
44 motor vehicle, or visible from the rear of the vehicle, shall not  
45 be prohibited under the provisions of this section if (a) the  
46 vehicle's gross weight is less than twelve thousand one (12,001)  
47 pounds, and (b) the lights are designed by the motor vehicle  
48 manufacturer or an after-market parts manufacturer so that they  
49 may only be illuminated whenever the vehicle is not in motion and  
50 the transmission of the vehicle is not capable of transmitting  
51 power to the wheels.

52 (3) No provision of this section shall be so construed as to  
53 prohibit the use of any white light or lights for the purpose of  
54 illuminating license plates.

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

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