

By: Senator(s) White (29th)

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2012

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

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

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

7 63-5-25. (1) Every trailer which shall be towed on the
8 public highways at a speed in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour
9 shall be coupled to the towing vehicle by means of a safety chain,
10 chains, cables or equivalent devices in addition to the regular
11 trailer hitch or coupling. All safety chains and attachments also
12 shall have a positive means of ensuring that the safety connection
13 or attachment does not become dislodged while in transit. This
14 requirement does not apply to a semitrailer having a connecting
15 device composed of a fifth wheel and kingpin assembly meeting the
16 requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission, nor to a pole,
17 pipe, casing, long or piling dolly. No more slack shall be left
18 in any such safety chains, cables or equivalent devices than shall
19 be necessary to permit proper turning. The safety chains, cables
20 or equivalent device shall be so connected to the towed and towing
21 vehicles and to the drawbar to prevent the drawbar from dropping
22 to the ground if the drawbar fails, and shall be of sufficient
23 strength to control the trailer in event of failure of the regular
24 trailer hitch or coupling.

25 (2) When one (1) vehicle is towing another the drawbar or
26 other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all
27 weight towed thereby. Said drawbar or other connection shall not



28 exceed fifteen (15) feet from one (1) vehicle to the other except
29 the connection between any two (2) vehicles transporting poles,
30 pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot
31 readily be dismembered. The safety requirements of subsection (1)
32 of this section shall apply to towed vehicles.

33 (3) When one (1) vehicle is towing another and the
34 connection consists of a chain, rope or cable, there shall be
35 displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than
36 twelve (12) inches square.

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

42 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after July 1, 2002.

