

By: Representative Ward

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 886

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-7-19 AND 63-7-23, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS TO USE FLASHING
3 OR STROBE EMERGENCY LIGHTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 63-7-19. (1) Except as otherwise provided for unmarked
8 vehicles under Section 19-25-15 and Section 25-1-87, every police
9 vehicle shall be marked with blue lights. Every ambulance shall
10 be marked with red lights front and back. Every emergency
11 management/civil defense vehicle, including emergency response
12 vehicles of the Department of Environmental Quality, shall be
13 marked with blinking, rotating or oscillating red lights. Every
14 wrecker or other vehicle used for emergency work, except vehicles
15 authorized to use blue or red lights, shall be marked with
16 blinking, oscillating or rotating amber colored lights to warn
17 other vehicles to yield the right-of-way, as provided in Section
18 63-3-809. Only police vehicles used for emergency work may be
19 marked with blinking, oscillating or rotating blue lights to warn
20 other vehicles to yield the right-of-way. Only law enforcement
21 vehicles, fire vehicles, private or department-owned vehicles used
22 by firemen of volunteer fire departments which receive funds
23 pursuant to Section 83-1-39 when responding to calls, emergency
24 management/civil defense vehicles, emergency response vehicles of
25 the Department of Environmental Quality and ambulances used for
26 emergency work may be marked with blinking, oscillating or
27 rotating red lights to warn other vehicles to yield the



28 right-of-way. This section shall not apply to school buses
29 carrying lighting devices in accordance with Section 63-7-23.

30 (2) Any vehicle referred to in subsection (1) of this
31 section also shall be authorized to use alternating flashing
32 headlights or flashing or strobe lights when responding to any
33 emergency.

34 (3) Any vehicle operated by a United States rural mail
35 carrier for the purpose of delivering United States mail may be
36 marked with two (2) amber colored lights on front top of the
37 vehicle and two (2) red colored lights on rear top of the vehicle
38 so as to warn approaching travelers to decrease their speed
39 because of danger of colliding with the mail carrier as he stops
40 and starts along the edge of the road, street or highway.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
42 amended as follows:

43 63-7-23. (1) The color of lighting devices shall be as
44 follows:

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

49 (b) No red lighting device of any character shall be
50 mounted at any place other than on or near the rear of any bus,
51 truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer or pole trailer.
52 However, school buses owned by or under contract with a school
53 district of this state may have affixed at or near the front end
54 thereof red lighting devices that may be caused to blink when the
55 school bus is stopped or in the process of stopping for the
56 purpose of loading or unloading school children. A school bus
57 also may be equipped with a white, flashing strobe light on the
58 roof of the vehicle installed according to standards promulgated
59 by the Mississippi Department of Education as authorized under
60 Section 37-41-1(c). Volunteer fire fighters may use flashing or



61 strobe lights in vehicles used to respond to fires and other
62 emergencies to which volunteer fire fighters respond.

63 (c) All rear clearance lamps, the side marker lamps on
64 each side at or near the rear, and any other lamps mounted on the
65 rear, on any bus, truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer
66 or pole trailer shall when lighted display a red color. However,
67 the stoplight or other warning device on the rear of any motor
68 vehicle may be red or amber.

69 (d) Backing lights of any color may be mounted on the
70 rear of any motor vehicle if the switch controlling such lights be
71 so arranged that they may be turned on only when the vehicle is in
72 reverse gear. Such backing lights when unlighted shall be so
73 colored or otherwise arranged as not to reflect objectionable
74 glare in the eyes of drivers of vehicles approaching from the
75 rear.

76 (2) Auxiliary white lights mounted on or near the rear of a
77 motor vehicle, or visible from the rear of the vehicle, shall not
78 be prohibited under the provisions of this section if (a) the
79 vehicle's gross weight is less than twelve thousand one (12,001)
80 pounds, and (b) the lights are designed by the motor vehicle
81 manufacturer or an after-market parts manufacturer so that they
82 may only be illuminated whenever the vehicle is not in motion and
83 the transmission of the vehicle is not capable of transmitting
84 power to the wheels.

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

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



93 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
94 and after July 1, 2003.

