

By: Representative Ward

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 475

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 WHITE  
3 FLASHING 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 when responding to any emergency.

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

40 (4) Volunteer fire fighters also may use white, flashing  
41 strobe lights in vehicles used when responding to fires and other  
42 emergencies.

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

45 63-7-23. (1) The color of lighting devices shall be as  
46 follows:

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

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

61 by the Mississippi Department of Education as authorized under  
62 Section 37-41-1(c). Volunteer fire fighters may use white,  
63 flashing strobe lights as provided in subsection (4) of Section  
64 63-7-19.

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

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

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

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

90 (4) Any lamps illuminated when the vehicle is in motion,  
91 other than those expressly required or permitted by the provisions  
92 of this chapter, shall, if visible from the front, display a white

93 or amber light; if visible from either side, display an amber  
94 light; and if visible from the rear, display a red light.

95           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
96 and after July 1, 2004.