

By: Representative Ward

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 509

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 and
10 special use EMS vehicle as defined in Section 41-59-3 shall be
11 marked with red lights front and back and also may be marked with
12 white and amber lights in addition to red lights. Every emergency
13 management/civil defense vehicle, including emergency response
14 vehicles of the Department of Environmental Quality, shall be
15 marked with blinking, rotating or oscillating red lights.
16 Official vehicles of a 911 Emergency Communications District may
17 be marked with red and white lights. Every wrecker or other
18 vehicle used for emergency work, except vehicles authorized to use
19 blue or red lights, shall be marked with blinking, oscillating or
20 rotating amber colored lights to warn other vehicles to yield the
21 right-of-way, as provided in Section 63-3-809. Only police
22 vehicles used for emergency work may be marked with blinking,
23 oscillating or rotating blue lights to warn other vehicles to
24 yield the right-of-way. Only law enforcement vehicles, fire
25 vehicles, private or department-owned vehicles used by firemen of
26 volunteer fire departments which receive funds pursuant to Section
27 83-1-39 when responding to calls, emergency management/civil

28 defense vehicles, emergency response vehicles of the Department of
29 Environmental Quality, ambulances used for emergency work, and 911
30 Emergency Communications District vehicles may be marked with
31 blinking, oscillating or rotating red lights to warn other
32 vehicles to yield the right-of-way. This section shall not apply
33 to school buses carrying lighting devices in accordance with
34 Section 63-7-23.

35 (2) Any vehicle referred to in subsection (1) of this
36 section also shall be authorized to use alternating flashing
37 headlights when responding to any emergency.

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

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

48 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2005.