

By: Representatives Brown, Boyd, Criswell,
Eubanks, Hopkins, Sykes

To: Transportation;
Insurance

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1207

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-65, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN TO EQUIP THEIR VEHICLES WITH SIRENS;
3 TO REQUIRE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN TO USE SIRENS WHEN RESPONDING TO AN
4 EMERGENCY CALL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-7-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 63-7-65. (1) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a
9 highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and
10 capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a
11 distance of not less than two hundred (200) feet. The driver of a
12 motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to insure safe
13 operation, give audible warning with his horn but shall not
14 otherwise use such horn upon a highway. No horn or other warning
15 device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a
16 whistle.

17 (2) Any authorized emergency vehicle, and any private or
18 department-owned vehicles used by firemen of volunteer fire
19 departments which receive funds pursuant to Section 83-1-39, may



20 be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell, capable of emitting
21 sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less
22 than five hundred (500) feet and of a type approved by the
23 department. No such siren shall be used except when such vehicle
24 is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate
25 pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which
26 said latter events the driver of such vehicle shall sound such
27 siren when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the
28 approach thereof. Further, firemen of volunteer fire departments
29 shall operate the siren when responding to an emergency call in a
30 vehicle equipped with a siren.

31 (3) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person
32 use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as
33 otherwise permitted in this section. No bicycle shall be equipped
34 with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.

35 (4) Any vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal
36 device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver
37 as an ordinary warning signal.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2017.

