

By: Representative Anderson

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 565

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-603, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
 2 TO REQUIRE OPERATORS OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO MOVE FROM THE LEFT LANE  
 3 WHEN BEING OVERTAKEN FROM THE REAR; TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS WHEN AN  
 4 OPERATOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IS NOT REQUIRED TO MOVE FROM LEFT LANE  
 5 WHEN BEING OVERTAKEN; TO REQUIRE OPERATORS OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
 6 TRAVELING AT A SLOW RATE OF SPEED ON TWO OR THREE-LANE ROADS TO  
 7 GIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE POINT IF THEY ARE  
 8 BLOCKING THREE OR MORE VEHICLES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-3-603, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 11 amended as follows:

12 63-3-603. (1) Whenever any roadway has been divided into  
 13 three (3) or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, except through  
 14 or bypassing a municipality, the following rules in addition to  
 15 all others consistent herewith shall apply:

16 (a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practical  
 17 entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such  
 18 lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can  
 19 be made with safety.

20 (b) A vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane  
 21 upon a roadway which is divided into three (3) lanes except when:



22 (i) Overtaking and passing another vehicle where  
23 the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of  
24 traffic within a safe distance;

25 (ii) Such vehicle is in preparation for a left  
26 turn; or

27 (iii) Such center lane is at the time allocated  
28 exclusively to traffic moving in the direction such vehicle is  
29 proceeding and is signposted to give notice of such allocation.

30 (c) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving  
31 traffic to use a designated lane or allocating specified lanes to  
32 traffic moving in the same direction, and drivers of vehicles  
33 shall obey the directions of every such sign.

34 (d) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less  
35 than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under  
36 the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand  
37 lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the  
38 right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and  
39 passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when  
40 preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private  
41 road or driveway.

42 (e) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not  
43 ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of  
44 roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons  
45 riding two (2) abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable



46 movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a  
47 single lane.

48 (f) A person who knows, or should reasonably know, that  
49 another vehicle is overtaking from the rear the vehicle that the  
50 person is operating shall not continue to operate the vehicle in  
51 the left most lane. In the enforcement of this paragraph, law  
52 enforcement officers shall determine whether the vehicle  
53 overtaking from the rear is traveling at an excessive rate of  
54 speed, and if so, shall first issue a ticket to the operator of  
55 the speeding vehicle. However, this paragraph shall not apply if  
56 any of the following conditions are met:

57 (i) Traffic conditions or congestion make it  
58 necessary to operate a vehicle in the left most lane;

59 (ii) Inclement weather, obstructions or hazards  
60 make it necessary to operate a vehicle in the left most lane;

61 (iii) Compliance with a law, regulation, ordinance  
62 or a traffic control device makes it necessary to operate a  
63 vehicle in the left most lane;

64 (iv) The vehicle is exiting a roadway or turning  
65 to the left;

66 (v) The vehicle operator is paying a toll or user  
67 fee at a toll collection facility;

68 (vi) The vehicle is an authorized emergency  
69 vehicle operated in the course of duty; or



70                   (vii) The vehicle is being operated or used in the  
71 course of highway maintenance or construction.

72           (2) A person who is driving on a two-lane road or a  
73 three-lane road with a center lane and is driving at such a slow  
74 rate of speed so that three (3) or more other vehicles are blocked  
75 and cannot pass on the left around the vehicle shall give  
76 right-of-way to the other vehicles by pulling off to the right of  
77 the right lane at the earliest reasonable opportunity and allow  
78 the blocked vehicles to pass.

79           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
80 and after July 1, 2018.

