

By: Representative Busby

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1343

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO DEFINE THE TERM "PLATOON" FOR THE PURPOSES OF CERTAIN MOTOR  
3 VEHICLE LAWS; TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-619, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
4 TO EXEMPT CERTAIN VEHICLE OPERATORS IN A PLATOON FROM PROVISIONS  
5 OF LAW REQUIRING CERTAIN DISTANCES TO BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN  
6 TRAVELING VEHICLES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-3-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 63-3-103. (a) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by  
11 which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn  
12 upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary  
13 rails or tracks.

14 (b) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is  
15 self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric  
16 power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon  
17 rails. The term "motor vehicle" shall not include electric  
18 personal assistive mobility devices.

19 (c) "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a saddle  
20 for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than



21 three (3) wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a  
22 tractor. The term "motorcycle" includes motor scooters as defined  
23 in paragraph (j) of this subsection.

24 (d) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means every vehicle of  
25 the fire department (fire patrol), every police vehicle, every 911  
26 Emergency Communications District vehicle, every such ambulance  
27 and special use EMS vehicle as defined in Section 41-59-3, every  
28 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency vehicle as is designated  
29 or authorized by the Executive Director of MEMA and every  
30 emergency vehicle of municipal departments or public service  
31 corporations as is designated or authorized by the commission or  
32 the chief of police of an incorporated city.

33 (e) "School bus" means every motor vehicle operated for the  
34 transportation of children to or from any school, provided same is  
35 plainly marked "School Bus" on the front and rear thereof and  
36 meets the requirements of the State Board of Education as  
37 authorized under Section 37-41-1.

38 (f) "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicular type unit  
39 primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational,  
40 camping or travel use, which either has its own motive power or is  
41 mounted on or drawn by another vehicle and includes travel  
42 trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, camping trailers, truck campers  
43 and motor homes.



44 (g) "Motor home" means a motor vehicle that is designed and  
45 constructed primarily to provide temporary living quarters for  
46 recreational, camping or travel use.

47 (h) "Electric assistive mobility device" means a  
48 self-balancing two-tandem wheeled device, designed to transport  
49 only one (1) person, with an electric propulsion system that  
50 limits the maximum speed of the device to fifteen (15) miles per  
51 hour.

52 (i) "Autocycle" means a motorcycle with three (3) wheels  
53 that is completely enclosed with a roll cage or roll bar,  
54 automotive controls and seat belts.

55 (j) "Motor scooter" means a two-wheeled vehicle that has a  
56 seat for the operator, one (1) wheel that is ten (10) inches or  
57 more in diameter, a step-through chassis, a motor with a rating of  
58 two and seven-tenths (2.7) brake horsepower or less if the motor  
59 is an internal combustion engine, an engine of 50cc or less and  
60 otherwise meets all safety requirements of motorcycles.

61 (k) "Platoon" means a group of individual motor vehicles  
62 traveling in a unified manner at electronically coordinated speeds  
63 at following distances that are closer than would be reasonable  
64 and prudent without such coordination.

65 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-3-619, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
66 amended as follows:

67 63-3-619. (1) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not  
68 follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and



69 prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the  
70 traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

71 (2) The driver of any motor truck or motor truck drawing  
72 another vehicle when traveling upon a roadway outside of a  
73 business or residence district shall not follow within three  
74 hundred (300) feet of another motor truck or motor truck drawing  
75 another vehicle. The provisions of this subsection shall not be  
76 construed to prevent overtaking and passing nor shall the same  
77 apply upon any lane specially designated for use by motor trucks.

78 (3) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall not apply  
79 to the operator of a non-lead vehicle in a platoon, as defined in  
80 Section 63-3-103(k).

81 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
82 and after July 1, 2018.

