

By: Representatives Gibbs (72nd), Holloway, To: Judiciary B
Bell (65th), Brown (20th), Crudup, Foster,
McCray, Straughter, Watson, Yates

HOUSE BILL NO. 655

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-1215, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL DRAG RACING TO MAKE IT A FELONY;
3 TO MAKE IT A FELONY TO WILLFULLY OBSTRUCT THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC BY
4 USE OR OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-3-1215, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 63-3-1215. (1) No person shall drive any vehicle upon the
9 public roads in this state in any race, speed competition or
10 contest, drag race or acceleration contest, test of physical
11 endurance, exhibition of speed or acceleration, or for the purpose
12 of making a speed record, and no person shall in any manner
13 participate in any such race, speed competition, drag race,
14 test * * * of physical endurance, exhibition, or purpose of making
15 a speed record.

16 (2) For the purposes of this section, "drag race" means the
17 operation of two (2) or more vehicles from a point side by side at
18 accelerating speeds in a competitive attempt to outdistance each
19 other, or the operation of one or more vehicles over a common



20 selected course, from the same point to the same point, for the
21 purpose of comparing the relative speeds or power of acceleration
22 of such vehicle or vehicles within a certain distance or time
23 limit on the public roads of this state.

24 (3) For the purposes of this section, "racing" means the use
25 of one or more vehicles in an attempt to outgain, outdistance, or
26 prevent another vehicle from passing, or to test the physical
27 stamina or endurance of drivers over long-distance driving routes
28 on the public roads of this state.

29 (4) Any person convicted of violating this section shall be
30 guilty of a * * * felony and, upon conviction, shall be fined not
31 more than * * * Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) or * * *
32 commitment to the custody of the State Department of Corrections
33 not to exceed two (2) years, or both.

34 (5) The prohibitions contained in this section do not apply
35 to events sanctioned by local governing authorities.

36 **SECTION 2.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or
37 persons to willfully obstruct by the use or operation of a motor
38 vehicle the free, convenient and normal use of any public
39 sidewalk, street, highway, alley, road, or other passageway by
40 impeding, hindering, stifling, retarding or restraining traffic or
41 passage thereon, and any person or persons violating the
42 provisions of this section shall be guilty of a felony, and upon
43 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than
44 Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) or commitment to the custody of



45 the State Department of Corrections not to exceed two (2) years,
46 or both.

47 (2) The provisions of this section are supplementary to the
48 provisions of any other statute of this state.

49 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after July 1, 2021.

