

By: Representatives Stepp, Boyd (37th),
Byrd, Carpenter, Estrada, Eubanks, Faulkner,
Gibbs (36th), Hall, Harris, Hines, Holloway
(27th), Horan, Jackson (45th), James-Jones,
Lancaster, Lott, Massengill, Mattox,
McMillan, Pigott, Powell, Remak, Thompson, Tubb, Waldo

To: Judiciary B;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1690

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE FIRE VEHICLES AND THOSE VEHICLES, WHETHER OWNED IN
3 PRIVATE OR BY A DEPARTMENT FOR USE BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS,
4 TO BE EQUIPPED WITH RED, WHITE AND BLUE LIGHTS; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 63-7-19. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided for unmarked
10 vehicles under Section 19-25-15 and Section 25-1-87, every police
11 vehicle shall be marked with blue lights. Every ambulance and
12 special use EMS vehicle as defined in Section 41-59-3 shall be
13 marked with red lights front and back and also may be marked with
14 white and amber lights in addition to red lights. Every fire
15 vehicle and private or department-owned vehicles used by firemen
16 of volunteer fire departments which receive funds pursuant to
17 Section 83-1-39 when responding to calls may be marked with red,
18 white and blue lights. Every emergency management/civil defense
19 vehicle, including emergency response vehicles of the Department



20 of Environmental Quality, shall be marked with blinking, rotating
21 or oscillating red lights. Official vehicles of a 911 Emergency
22 Communications District may be marked with red and white lights.
23 Every wrecker or other vehicle used for emergency work, except
24 vehicles authorized to use blue or red lights, shall be marked
25 with blinking, oscillating or rotating amber-colored lights to
26 warn other vehicles to yield the right-of-way, as provided in
27 Section 63-3-809. Only police vehicles used for emergency work
28 may be marked with blinking, oscillating or rotating blue lights
29 to warn other vehicles to yield the right-of-way. Only law
30 enforcement vehicles, fire vehicles, private or department-owned
31 vehicles used by firemen of volunteer fire departments which
32 receive funds pursuant to Section 83-1-39 when responding to
33 calls, emergency management/civil defense vehicles, emergency
34 response vehicles of the Department of Environmental Quality,
35 ambulances used for emergency work, and 911 Emergency
36 Communications District vehicles may be marked with blinking,
37 oscillating or rotating red lights to warn other vehicles to yield
38 the right-of-way. This section shall not apply to school buses
39 carrying lighting devices in accordance with Section 63-7-23.

40 (b) Emergency response vehicles listed in this
41 subsection (1) are also authorized to use alternating flashing
42 headlights when responding to any emergency.

43 (2) Any vehicle operated by a United States rural mail
44 carrier for the purpose of delivering United States mail may be



45 marked with two (2) amber-colored lights on front top of the
46 vehicle and two (2) red-colored lights on rear top of the vehicle
47 and alternatively or additionally may be marked with a white,
48 flashing strobe light on the roof of the vehicle so as to warn
49 approaching travelers to decrease their speed because of danger of
50 colliding with the mail carrier as he stops and starts along the
51 edge of the road, street or highway.

52 (3) Any sanitation vehicle operated by a county,
53 municipality or other political subdivision of this state or by a
54 contractor under contract with a county, municipality or other
55 political subdivision of this state to collect solid waste, refuse
56 or recyclable material may be marked with flashing or oscillating
57 white- or amber-colored lights so as to warn approaching travelers
58 to decrease speed because of the danger of colliding with the
59 sanitation collection vehicle as it stops and starts along the
60 road, street or highway.

61 (4) Any nonlaw enforcement vehicle being used to lead and
62 facilitate the movement of a military funeral procession may be
63 marked with blinking, rotating or oscillating purple lights.
64 "Military funeral procession" means two (2) or more vehicles
65 accompanying the body of a deceased member of the United States
66 Armed Forces, or traveling to the church, chapel or other location
67 at which the funeral service or entombment is to be held.

68 (5) Any operator of an emergency vehicle authorized to be
69 marked with blinking, rotating or oscillating lights in accordance



70 with this section, shall use blinking, rotating or oscillating
71 lights when operating the emergency vehicle at a speed in excess
72 of thirty (30) miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

73 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
74 and after July 1, 2024.

