Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 349

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section 63-7-105, Mississippi Code of 1972:

16 63-7-105. (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) The height of the fender shall be a vertical
measurement from, and perpendicular to, the ground, through the
centerline of the wheel, and to the bottom of the fender.

20 (b) "Fender" means the pressed and formed part mounted 21 over the road wheels of a motor vehicle to reduce the splashing of 22 mud, water or similar substances.

(c) "Squatted vehicles" means vehicles whose front fenders have been raised four (4) or more inches greater than the rear fenders. The described modification makes a vehicle appear as if it is "squatting" on its back tires.

(2) (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a
passenger motor vehicle on the streets or highways of this state
if, by alteration of the suspension, frame or chassis, the height

H. B. 349 PAGE 1 30 of the front fender is raised four (4) or more inches greater than 31 the height of the rear fender.

32 (b) Motor vehicles equipped with high clearance fenders
33 to allow for increased front suspension articulation shall be
34 exempt from the provision of paragraph (a) of this subsection.

35 (3) A person who violates the provisions of this subsection36 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction:

37 (a) For a first offense, shall be fined One Hundred
38 Dollars (\$100.00);

39 (b) For a second offense, shall be fined Two Hundred40 Dollars (\$200.00); and

41 (c) For a third or subsequent offense, shall be fined
42 Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) and have his or her license
43 suspended by the Commission of Public Safety for a period of
44 twelve (12) months from the date of conviction.

(4) Only offenses which occur within five (5) years of each
other, including and immediately preceding the date of the last
offense, shall constitute a prior offense within the meaning of
this subsection.

(5) The penalties for this section shall take effect one hundred eighty (180) days after the effective date. For a period of one hundred eighty (180) days after the effective date, state and local law enforcement officers shall only issue warning tickets for a violation of the provisions of this section. From and after January 27, 2025, state and local law enforcement

H. B. 349 PAGE 2 55 officers shall issue tickets that assess penalties, as outlined in 56 subsection (3) of this section, to drivers of squatted vehicles.

57 SECTION 2. The following shall be codified as Section 58 63-7-107, Mississippi Code of 1972:

59 <u>63-7-107.</u> (1) The fines assessed and collected as a result 60 of violating the provisions of Section 63-7-105 shall be deposited 61 into the State General Fund and used in their entirety to aid in 62 funding Secondary School Driver Education and Training Programs, 63 as established by Senate Bill No. 2695, 2024 Regular Session.

64 (2) Section 63-7-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall go
65 into effect from and after the passage date, if any, of Senate
66 Bill No. 2695, 2024 Regular Session.

67 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 68 and after July 1, 2024.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT TO CREATE SECTION 63-7-105, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, 1 2 TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS THAT RESULT IN THE MOTOR VEHICLES' FRONT FENDERS BEING RAISED FOUR OR MORE INCHES 3 4 GREATER THAN THE HEIGHT OF THE REAR FENDERS, TO PROVIDE AN 5 EXEMPTION FROM THE NEW SUSPENSION MODIFICATION RULE, TO PROVIDE 6 FOR THE MANNER OF MEASURING THE HEIGHT OF THE FENDERS, TO DEFINE 7 RELEVANT TERMS, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; TO CREATE SECTION 63-7-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THAT FINES 8 9 COLLECTED DUE TO VIOLATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 63-7-105 10 BE DEPOSITED INTO THE STATE GENERAL FUND AND UTILIZED IN THEIR 11 ENTIRETY TO AID IN FUNDING SECONDARY SCHOOL DRIVER EDUCATION 12 PROGRAMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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Amanda White Secretary of the Senate