

By: Representative Nelson

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 844

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE HEADLIGHTS OF VEHICLES SHALL BE OPERATED WHENEVER
3 ADVERSE DRIVING CONDITIONS DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS
4 NECESSITATE OR OTHER CONDITIONS THAT IMPEDED VISIBILITY
5 NECESSITATE; TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF ONLY THE PARKING LIGHTS OF
6 VEHICLES DURING TIMES WHEN THE USE OF HEADLIGHTS IS REQUIRED; TO
7 PRESCRIBE THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 63-7-11. (1) (a) Every vehicle operated upon a public
12 road, street or highway within this state during the period from
13 sunset to sunrise and at any other time when adverse driving
14 conditions exist due to adverse weather conditions or any other
15 conditions impeded visibility and there is not sufficient light to
16 render clearly discernible any person on the highway at a distance
17 of five hundred (500) feet ahead shall be equipped with * * * and
18 display lights, including headlights, illuminating devices and
19 rear lamps as respectively required in Section 63-7-13 for
20 different classes of vehicles * * *, subject to exemption with



reference to lights on parked vehicles as hereinafter stated in this chapter.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "adverse driving conditions" means:

- (i) Rain;
- (ii) Snow;
- (iii) Ice;
- (iv) Sleet;
- (v) Fog;
- (vi) Any precipitation that necessitates the use of windshield wipers;
- (vii) Other adverse weather conditions; or
- (viii) Unusual road or traffic conditions that were not known, or could not reasonably be known, to a driver immediately prior to beginning his or her drive.

(2) In those instances when the use of headlights are required because of weather phenomenon producing fog, the driver of vehicles operating in such conditions shall use the low beam function of the vehicle's headlights system, notwithstanding the simultaneous use of fog lamps on vehicles equipped with that feature.

(3) It is unlawful for any vehicle operator to use only the parking lights or auxiliary driving lamps of the vehicle during any time required under subsection (1).



45 (4) Any person violating the provisions of this section is
46 guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not
47 more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), upon conviction.

48 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2025.

