

By: Senator(s) Suber

To: Highways and
TransportationSENATE BILL NO. 2258
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-31-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ALLOW ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND RECREATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES
3 TO OPERATE ON COUNTY RURAL, GRAVEL OR PAVED ROADS; TO REQUIRE, FOR
4 SUCH OPERATION, COMPLIANCE WITH LICENSING AND TAGGING REQUIREMENTS
5 AND OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE REGULATIONS, EXCEPT THOSE REQUIRING
6 EQUIPPING WITH WINDSHIELD WIPERS; TO SPECIFY THAT A LICENSE TAG
7 SHALL NOT AUTHORIZE THE USE OF AN ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OR
8 RECREATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FOR TOWING, OR FOR OPERATION ON
9 AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY OR ANY OTHER ROAD FOR WHICH THE SPEED LIMIT
10 EXCEEDS 40 MILES PER HOUR, EXCEPT FOR CROSSING CERTAIN ROADS; TO
11 AMEND SECTION 27-19-99, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT
12 MONIES REMITTED OR RECEIVED AS REGISTRATION OR TAG FEES FROM THE
13 ADDITIONAL RATE OF \$5.00 SHALL, IN THE CASE OF ALL-TERRAIN
14 VEHICLES AND RECREATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES, BE PAID TO THE
15 COUNTY IN WHICH THE VEHICLE IS REGISTERED; TO AMEND SECTIONS
16 27-19-3, 27-19-5, 27-19-43, 27-51-5, 63-3-103, 63-15-3 AND
17 63-21-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED
18 PURPOSES.

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

20 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-31-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
21 amended as follows:

22 63-31-3. (1) No off-road vehicle shall be operated upon any
23 public property by any person unless:

24 (a) (i) The person possesses a valid driver's license;

25 or



(ii) The person possesses a certificate as provided under subsections (3) and (4) of this section * * *; and

(b) * * * Each person under sixteen (16) years of age who is operating or riding on the off-road vehicle is wearing a crash helmet that complies with minimum guidelines established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration pursuant to the federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218 (49 CFR 571.218) for helmets designed for use by motorcyclists.

(2) A violation of subsection (1) of this section is punishable by a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

(3) Off-road vehicle safety courses shall be held by the Cooperative Extension Service using 4-H safety course materials and curricula, and shall be taught by instructors possessing qualifications approved by the Department of Public Safety. The Cooperative Extension Service shall issue a certificate to each person who satisfactorily completes the off-road vehicle safety course.

(4) Off-road vehicle safety courses may be held by any organization approved by the Department of Public Safety. Such organization shall issue a certificate to each person who satisfactorily completes the off-road vehicle safety course.

(5) All-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles may be operated on county rural, gravel or paved roads.
All-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles



operating under this subsection shall comply with licensing and tagging requirements under Title 27, Chapter 19, Mississippi Code of 1972, and with other motor vehicle regulations, except those requiring equipping with windshield wipers. A license tag shall not authorize the use of an all-terrain vehicle or recreational off-highway vehicle for towing, or for operation on an interstate highway or any other road for which the speed limit exceeds forty (40) miles per hour. However, such a vehicle may, for the purpose of crossing from one (1) road, field or area of operation to another, be operated on a state-maintained highway or other noncounty road, other than the interstate and national defense highway system, if:

(a) The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety (90) degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing;

(b) The vehicle is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway;

(c) The operator yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic that constitutes an immediate potential hazard; and

(d) Both the headlights and the taillights are illuminated when the crossing is made.

(* * *6) For the purposes of this section:



(a) "Off-road vehicle" means any all-terrain vehicle, dirt bike or recreational off-highway vehicle. The term "off-road vehicle" shall not include electric bicycles.

(b) "All-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" means any motorized vehicle manufactured and designed exclusively for off-road use that is fifty-five (55) inches or less in width; has an unladen dry weight of one thousand (1,000) pounds or less; and travels on three (3), four (4) or more nonhighway tires. The term "all-terrain vehicle" shall not include electric bicycles.

(c) "Dirt bike" means a motor-powered vehicle possessing two (2) or more tires, designed to travel over any terrain and capable of * * * traveling off of paved roads, whether or not the vehicle may be operated legally on a public street. The term "dirt bike" shall not include electric bicycles.

(d) "Recreational off-highway vehicle" means any motorized vehicle manufactured and designed exclusively for off-road use that is seventy-five (75) inches or less in width; has an unladen dry weight of three thousand five hundred (3,500) pounds or less; and travels on four (4) or more nonhighway tires.

* * *

SECTION 2. Section 27-19-99, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-19-99. (1) The Department of Revenue shall furnish the tax collector of each county a sufficient supply of license tags or plates and a sufficient supply of license receipts with which



99 to make the collection of the taxes imposed by the provisions of
100 this article, which such tax collectors are required to collect.
101 The license tag receipts shall be on forms prescribed by the
102 department. Upon the payment of the taxes and fees required by
103 this article, the tax collector shall issue the license receipt in
104 the form prescribed by the department. The department shall keep
105 account against the tax collector for the license taxes and fees
106 collected. The tax collector shall keep a similar account.

107 (2) The tax collector shall, at the end of each month or
108 within twenty (20) days thereafter, pay into the county road fund
109 all privilege taxes collected by him or her during the preceding
110 month upon motor vehicle privilege licenses which he or she is
111 entitled to issue, less the county's commission.

112 (3) The tax collector shall keep a record of the information
113 furnished by the owners of each motor vehicle registered. The
114 record shall be made in numerical order by tag number or decal
115 number, whichever is appropriate. At the end of each month, or
116 within twenty (20) days thereafter, the tax collector shall submit
117 to the department a copy of such record, together with the copy of
118 each registration receipt, and shall, at the same time, remit to
119 the department the registration fee for each license tag or decal
120 sold by him or her during the preceding month. When the tax
121 collector shall have complied with the provisions of this section
122 and shall have forwarded to the department, within the time
123 specified, all reports required of him or her hereunder, he or she



shall then be entitled to retain five percent (5%) of the registration fees imposed in Section 27-19-43(3)(a) and (b), to be paid into the county general fund; otherwise the county's commission shall be forfeited. The five percent (5%) shall not apply to any additional registration fee imposed above the amounts imposed in Section 27-19-43(3)(a) and (b). The department shall keep a record from the duplicates filed by the tax collectors of all registered vehicles.

(4) Counties that use their existing computer system to communicate all data regarding vehicle title and registration transactions to the state's central computer system shall be allotted Fifty Cents (50¢) for each registration fee collected by the county and remitted to the Department of Revenue. Such communication must successfully pass any edit features and successfully create or update title/registration records on the network system. This amount paid to the county shall be deposited into the county general fund to be expended only for costs incurred for the purchase of equipment, software, maintenance * * * or other costs directly related to the title/registration network system, and for education and training.

(5) All monies remitted to the department by tax collectors as registration or tag fees from the portion of the rate imposed in Section 27-19-43(3)(a) and (b), and all monies received by the department directly as registration or tag fees from the portion of the rate imposed in Section 27-19-43(3)(a) and (b), except as



otherwise provided in subsection (7) of this section, shall be paid by the department into the General Fund of the State Treasury on the first day of the month succeeding the month in which such fees are received by the department.

(6) Except as otherwise provided in Section 31-17-127, and except in the case of all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles, all monies remitted to the department by tax collectors as registration or tag fees from the additional rate of Five Dollars (\$5.00) and all monies received by the department directly as registration or tag fees from the additional rate of Five Dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the State Highway Fund for the construction or reconstruction of highways designated under the highway program created under Section 65-3-97. In the case of all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles, these monies from the additional rate of Five Dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid to the county in which the vehicle is registered.

(7) On July 1, 2021, and on the first day of each month succeeding the month in which registration or tag fees are received by the Department of Revenue, the portion of the receipts equal to the cost of the license tags, decals and associated freight costs shall be deposited into the special fund created in Section 27-19-179.

SECTION 3. Section 27-19-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



27-19-3. (a) The following words and phrases when used in this article for the purpose of this article have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except in those instances where the context clearly describes and indicates a different meaning:

(1) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, except devices moved by muscular power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks. The term "vehicle" includes all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles operated on county rural, gravel or paved roads under Section 63-31-3.

(2) "Commercial vehicle" means every vehicle used or operated upon the public roads, highways or bridges in connection with any business function.

(3) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle as defined in this section which is self-propelled, including trackless street or trolley cars. The term "motor vehicle" shall not include electric bicycles, personal delivery devices or electric personal assistive mobility devices as defined in Section 63-3-103, or golf carts or low-speed vehicles as defined in Section 63-32-1.

(4) "Tractor" means every vehicle designed, constructed or used for drawing other vehicles.

(5) "Motorcycle" means every vehicle designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground,



except electric bicycles, personal delivery devices and vehicles included within the term "tractor" as herein classified and defined.

(6) "Truck tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used for drawing other vehicles and so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load so drawn and has a gross vehicle weight (GVW) in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds.

(7) "Trailer" means every vehicle without motive power, designed to carry property or passengers wholly on its structure and which is drawn by a motor vehicle.

(8) "Semitrailer" means every vehicle (of the trailer type) so designed and used in conjunction with a truck tractor.

(9) "Foreign vehicle" means every motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, which shall be brought into the state otherwise than by or through a manufacturer or dealer for resale and which has not been registered in this state.

(10) "Pneumatic tires" means all tires inflated with compressed air.

(11) "Solid rubber tires" means every tire made of rubber other than pneumatic tires.

(12) "Solid tires" means all tires, the surface of which in contact with the highway is wholly or partly of metal or other hard, nonresilient material.



223 (13) "Person" means every natural person, firm,
224 copartnership, corporation, joint-stock or other association or
225 organization.

226 (14) "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title
227 of a vehicle or in the event a vehicle is the subject of an
228 agreement for the conditional sale, lease or transfer of the
229 possession, the person with the right of purchase upon performance
230 of conditions stated in the agreement, and with an immediate right
231 of possession vested in the conditional vendee, lessee, possessor
232 or in the event such or similar transaction is had by means of a
233 mortgage, and the mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to
234 possession, then such conditional vendee, lessee, possessor or
235 mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purposes of this
236 article.

237 (15) "School bus" means every motor vehicle engaged
238 solely in transporting school children or school children and
239 teachers to and from schools; however, such vehicles may transport
240 passengers on weekends and legal holidays and during summer months
241 between the terms of school for compensation when the
242 transportation of passengers is over a route of which not more
243 than fifty percent (50%) traverses the route of a common carrier
244 of passengers by motor vehicle and when no passengers are picked
245 up on the route of any such carrier.

246 (16) "Dealer" means every person engaged regularly in
247 the business of buying, selling or exchanging motor vehicles,



trailers, semitrailers, trucks, tractors or other character of commercial or industrial motor vehicles in this state, and having an established place of business in this state.

(17) "Highway" means and includes every way or place of whatever nature, including public roads, streets and alleys of this state generally open to the use of the public or to be opened or reopened to the use of the public for the purpose of vehicular travel, and notwithstanding that the same may be temporarily closed for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair.

(18) "State Tax Commission," "commission" or "department" means the Commissioner of Revenue of the Department of Revenue of this state, acting directly or through his duly authorized officers, agents, representatives and employees.

(19) "Common carrier by motor vehicle" means any person who or which undertakes, whether directly or by a lease or any other arrangement, to transport passengers or property or any class or classes of property for the general public in interstate or intrastate commerce on the public highways of this state by motor vehicles for compensation, whether over regular or irregular routes. The term "common carrier by motor vehicle" shall not include passenger buses operating within the corporate limits of a municipality in this state or not exceeding five (5) miles beyond the corporate limits of the municipality, and hearses, ambulances,



and school buses as such. In addition, this definition shall not include taxicabs.

(20) "Contract carrier by motor vehicle" means any person who or which under the special and individual contract or agreements, and whether directly or by a lease or any other arrangement, transports passengers or property in interstate or intrastate commerce on the public highways of this state by motor vehicle for compensation. The term "contract carrier by motor vehicle" shall not include passenger buses operating wholly within the corporate limits of a municipality in this state or not exceeding five (5) miles beyond the corporate limits of the municipality, and hearses, ambulances, and school buses as such. In addition, this definition shall not include taxicabs.

(21) "Private commercial and noncommercial carrier of property by motor vehicle" means any person not included in the terms "common carrier by motor vehicle" or "contract carrier by motor vehicle," who or which transports in interstate or intrastate commerce on the public highways of this state by motor vehicle, property of which such person is the owner, lessee, or bailee, other than for hire. The term "private commercial and noncommercial carrier of private property by motor vehicle" shall not include passenger buses operated wholly within the corporate limits of a municipality of this state, or not exceeding five (5) miles beyond the corporate limits of the municipality, and



hearses, ambulances, and school buses as such. In addition, this definition shall not include taxicabs.

Haulers of fertilizer shall be classified as private commercial carriers of property by motor vehicle.

(22) "Private carrier of passengers" means all other passenger motor vehicle carriers not included in the above definitions. The term "private carrier of passengers" shall not include passenger buses operating wholly within the corporate limits of a municipality in this state, or not exceeding five (5) miles beyond the corporate limits of the municipality, and hearses, ambulances, and school buses as such. In addition, this definition shall not include taxicabs.

(23) "Operator" means any person, partnership, joint-stock company or corporation operating on the public highways of the state one or more motor vehicles as the beneficial owner or lessee.

(24) "Driver" means the person actually driving or operating such motor vehicle at any given time.

(25) "Private carrier of property" means any person transporting property on the highways of this state as defined below:

(i) Any person, or any employee of such person, transporting farm products, farm supplies, materials and/or equipment used in the growing or production of his own agricultural products in his own truck.



321 (ii) Any person transporting his own fish,
322 including shellfish, in his own truck.

323 (iii) Any person, or any employee of such person,
324 transporting unprocessed forest products, or timber harvesting
325 equipment wherein ownership remains the same, in his own truck.

326 (26) "Taxicab" means any passenger motor vehicle for
327 hire with a seating capacity not greater than ten (10) passengers.
328 For purposes of this paragraph (26), seating capacity shall be
329 determined according to the manufacturer's suggested seating
330 capacity for a vehicle. If there is no manufacturer's suggested
331 seating capacity for a vehicle, the seating capacity for the
332 vehicle shall be determined according to regulations established
333 by the Department of Revenue.

334 (27) "Passenger coach" means any passenger motor
335 vehicle with a seating capacity greater than ten (10) passengers,
336 operating wholly within the corporate limits of a municipality of
337 this state or within five (5) miles of the corporate limits of the
338 municipality, or motor vehicles substituted for abandoned electric
339 railway systems in or between municipalities. For purposes of
340 this paragraph (27), seating capacity shall be determined
341 according to the manufacturer's suggested seating capacity for a
342 vehicle. If there is no manufacturer's suggested seating capacity
343 for a vehicle, the seating capacity for the vehicle shall be
344 determined according to regulations established by the Department
345 of Revenue.



(28) "Empty weight" means the actual weight of a vehicle including fixtures and equipment necessary for the transportation of load hauled or to be hauled.

(29) "Gross weight" means the empty weight of the vehicle, as defined herein, plus any load being transported or to be transported.

(30) "Ambulance and hearse" shall have the meaning generally ascribed to them. A hearse or funeral coach shall be classified as a light carrier of property, as defined in Section 27-51-101.

(31) "Regular seats" means each seat ordinarily and customarily used by one (1) passenger, including all temporary, emergency, and collapsible seats. Where any seats are not distinguished or separated by separate cushions and backs, a seat shall be counted for each eighteen (18) inches of space on such seats or major fraction thereof. In the case of a regular passenger-type automobile which is used as a common or contract carrier of passengers, three (3) seats shall be counted for the rear seat of such automobile and one (1) seat shall be counted for the front seat of such automobile.

(32) "Ton" means two thousand (2,000) pounds avoirdupois.

(33) "Bus" means any passenger vehicle with a seating capacity of more than ten (10) but shall not include "private carrier of passengers" and "school bus" as defined in paragraphs



(15) and (22) of this section. For purposes of this paragraph (33), seating capacity shall be determined according to the manufacturer's suggested seating capacity for a vehicle. If there is no manufacturer's suggested seating capacity for a vehicle, the seating capacity for the vehicle shall be determined according to regulations established by the Department of Revenue.

(34) "Corporate fleet" means a group of two hundred (200) or more marked private carriers of passengers or light carriers of property, as defined in Section 27-51-101, trailers, semitrailers, or motor vehicles in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight, except for those vehicles registered for interstate travel, owned or leased on a long-term basis by a corporation or other legal entity. In order to be considered marked, the motor vehicle must have a name, trademark or logo located either on the sides or the rear of the vehicle in sharp contrast to the background, and of a size, shape and color that is legible during daylight hours from a distance of fifty (50) feet.

(35) "Individual fleet" means a group of five (5) or more private carriers of passengers or light carriers of property, as defined in Section 27-51-101, owned or leased by the same person and principally garaged in the same county.

(36) "Trailer fleet" means a group of fifty (50) or more utility trailers each with a gross vehicle weight of six thousand (6,000) pounds or less.



(37) "Rental fleet" means a group of two hundred (200) or more private carriers of passengers or light carriers of property, as defined in Section 27-51-101, trailers, semitrailers, or motor vehicles in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight, except for those vehicles registered for interstate travel, owned or leased on a long-term basis by a corporation or other legal entity and exempt from ad valorem taxation under Section 27-51-41(2)(n).

(38) "All-terrain vehicle," "ATV" and "recreational off-highway vehicle" have the meanings ascribed in Section 63-31-3.

(b) (1) No lease shall be recognized under the provisions of this article unless it shall be in writing and shall fully define a bona fide relationship of lessor and lessee, signed by both parties, dated and be in the possession of the driver of the leased vehicle at all times.

(2) Leased vehicles shall be considered as domiciled at the place in the State of Mississippi from which they operate in interstate or intrastate commerce, and for the purposes of this article shall be considered as owned by the lessee, who shall furnish all insurance on the vehicles and the driver of the vehicles shall be considered as an agent of the lessee for all purposes of this article.

SECTION 4. Section 27-19-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



27-19-5. There is hereby levied the following annual highway privilege tax on operators of private carriers of passengers as reasonable compensation for the use of the highways of this state:

(a) On the owner or operator of each private carrier of passengers.....\$15.00

(b) On each motorcycle, per annum..... 8.00

(c) On each all-terrain vehicle or recreational off-highway vehicle operated on roads under Section 63-31-3, per annum..... 8.00

SECTION 5. Section 27-19-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-19-43. (1) License tags, substitute tags and decals for individual fleets and for private carriers of passengers, school buses (excluding school buses owned by a school district in the state), church buses, taxicabs, ambulances, hearses, motorcycles * * *, all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles operated on roads, private carriers of property, and private commercial carriers of property of a gross weight of ten thousand (10,000) pounds and less, shall be sold and issued by the tax collectors of the several counties.

(2) Applications for license tags for motor vehicles in a corporate fleet registered under Section 27-19-66, trailers in a fleet registered under Section 27-19-66.1, motor vehicles in a rental fleet registered under Section 27-19-66.2, and applications for all other license tags, substitute tags and decals shall be



filed with the department or the local tax collector of the
respective counties and forwarded to the department for issuance
to the applicant. All tags and decals for vehicles owned by the
state or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and vehicles owned
by a fire protection district, school district or a county or
municipality, and all vehicles owned by a road, drainage or levee
district shall be issued by the department.

(3) In addition to the privilege taxes levied herein, there
shall be collected the following registration or tag fee:

(a) For the issuance of both a license tag and two (2)
decals, a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00).

(b) For the issuance of up to two (2) decals only, a
fee of Three Dollars and Seventy-five Cents (\$3.75).

(c) Additionally, the tax collector or the department,
as the case may be, shall assess and collect a fee of Four Dollars
(\$4.00) upon each set of license tags and two (2) decals issued,
or upon each set of two (2) decals issued, and that sum shall be
deposited in the Mississippi Trauma Care Systems Fund established
in Section 41-59-75, to be used for the purposes set out in that
section.

No tag or decal shall be issued either by a tax collector or
by the department without the collection of such registration fee
except substitute tags and decals and license tags for vehicles
owned by the State of Mississippi.



Beginning July 1, 1987, and until the date specified in Section 65-39-35, there shall be levied a registration fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) in addition to the regular registration fee imposed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection. Such additional registration fee shall be levied in the same manner as the regular registration fee.

SECTION 6. Section 27-51-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-51-5. The subject words and terms of this section, for the purpose of this chapter, shall have meanings as follows:

(a) "Motor vehicle" means any device and attachments supported by one or more wheels which is propelled or drawn by any power other than muscular power over the highways, streets or alleys of this state. The term "motor vehicle" shall not include electric bicycles, personal delivery devices or electric personal assistive mobility devices as defined in Section 63-3-103, or golf carts or low-speed vehicles as defined in Section 63-32-1.

However, mobile homes which are detached from any self-propelled vehicles and parked on land in the state are hereby expressly exempt from the motor vehicle ad valorem taxes, but house trailers which are actually in transit and which are not parked for more than an overnight stop are not exempted. The term "motor vehicle" includes all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles, as defined in Section 63-31-3, operated on roads under Section 63-31-3.



494 (b) "Public highway" means and includes every way or
495 place of whatever nature, including public roads, streets and
496 alleys of this state generally open to the use of the public or to
497 be opened or reopened to the use of the public for the purpose of
498 vehicular travel, notwithstanding that the same may be temporarily
499 closed for the purpose of construction, reconstruction,
500 maintenance * * * or repair.

501 (c) "Administrator of the road and bridge privilege tax
502 law" means the official authorized by law to administer the road
503 and bridge privilege tax law of this state.

504 **SECTION 7.** Section 63-3-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
505 amended as follows:

506 63-3-103. (a) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by
507 which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn
508 upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary
509 rails or tracks. The term "vehicle" includes all-terrain vehicles
510 and recreational off-highway vehicles, as defined in Section
511 63-31-3, operated on roads under Section 63-31-3. This inclusion
512 subjects such all-terrain vehicles and recreational off-highway
513 vehicles to the requirements of this chapter, except as to those
514 provisions that by their nature can have no application; however,
515 this inclusion does not permit all-terrain vehicles or
516 recreational off-highway vehicles to be operated on public roads
517 other than as authorized under Section 63-31-3.



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

(c) "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a tractor. The term "motorcycle" includes motor scooters as defined in subsection (j) of this section. The term "motorcycle" shall not include electric bicycles or personal delivery devices.

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

(e) "School bus" means every motor vehicle operated for the transportation of children to or from any school, provided same is plainly marked "School Bus" on the front and rear thereof and



meets the requirements of the State Board of Education as authorized under Section 37-41-1.

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

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

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

(i) "Autocycle" means a three-wheel motorcycle with a steering wheel, nonstraddle seating, rollover protection and seat belts.

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



567 "motor scooter" shall not include electric bicycles or personal
568 delivery devices.

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

573 (l) "Electric bicycle" means a bicycle or tricycle equipped
574 with fully operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an
575 electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that
576 meets the requirements of one (1) of the following three (3)
577 classes:

578 (i) "Class 1 electric bicycle" means an electric
579 bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when
580 the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when
581 the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty (20) miles per hour.

582 (ii) "Class 2 electric bicycle" means an electric
583 bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to
584 propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing
585 assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty (20) miles
586 per hour.

587 (iii) "Class 3 electric bicycle" means an electric
588 bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when
589 the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when
590 the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight (28) miles per hour.

591 (m) "Personal delivery device" means a device:



(i) Solely powered by an electric motor;

(ii) Intended to be operated primarily on sidewalks, crosswalks, and other pedestrian areas to transport cargo;

(iii) Intended primarily to transport property on public rights-of-way, and not intended to carry passengers; and

(iv) Capable of navigating with or without the active control or monitoring of a natural person.

(n) "Personal delivery device operator" means a person or entity that exercises physical control or monitoring over the operation of a personal delivery device, excluding a person or entity that requests or receives the services of a personal delivery device, arranges for or dispatches the requested services of a personal delivery device, or stores, charges or maintains a personal delivery device.

(o) "Fully autonomous vehicle" means a motor vehicle equipped with an automated driving system designed to function without a human driver as a Level 4 or Level 5 automation system under the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Standard J3016.

SECTION 8. Section 63-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

63-15-3. The following words and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall, for the purposes of this chapter, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:



617 (a) "Highway" means the entire width between property
618 lines of any road, street, way, thoroughfare or bridge in the
619 State of Mississippi not privately owned or controlled, when any
620 part thereof is open to the public for vehicular traffic and over
621 which the state has legislative jurisdiction under its police
622 power.

623 (b) "Judgment" means any judgment which shall have
624 become final by expiration, without appeal, of the time within
625 which an appeal might have been perfected, or by final affirmation
626 on appeal, rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction of any
627 state or of the United States, upon a cause of action arising out
628 of the ownership, maintenance or use of any motor vehicle, for
629 damages, including damages for care and loss of services, because
630 of bodily injury to or death of any person, or for damages because
631 of injury to or destruction of property, including the loss of use
632 thereof, or upon a cause of action on an agreement of settlement
633 for such damages.

634 (c) "Motor vehicle" means every self-propelled vehicle
635 (other than traction engines, road rollers and graders, tractor
636 cranes, power shovels, well drillers, implements of husbandry,
637 electric bicycles, personal delivery devices and electric personal
638 assistive mobility devices as defined in Section 63-3-103) which
639 is designed for use upon a highway, including trailers and
640 semitrailers designed for use with such vehicles, and every
641 vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from



642 overhead wires but not operated upon rails. The term "motor
643 vehicle" includes all-terrain vehicles and recreational
644 off-highway vehicles, as defined in Section 63-31-3, operated on
645 roads under Section 63-31-3.

646 For purposes of this definition, "implements of husbandry"
647 shall not include trucks, pickup trucks, trailers and semitrailers
648 designed for use with such trucks and pickup trucks.

649 (d) "License" means any driver's, operator's,
650 commercial operator's, or chauffeur's license, temporary
651 instruction permit or temporary license, or restricted license,
652 issued under the laws of the State of Mississippi pertaining to
653 the licensing of persons to operate motor vehicles.

654 (e) "Nonresident" means every person who is not a
655 resident of the State of Mississippi.

656 (f) "Nonresident's operating privilege" means the
657 privilege conferred upon a nonresident by the laws of Mississippi
658 pertaining to the operation by him or her of a motor vehicle, or
659 the use of a motor vehicle owned by him or her, in the State of
660 Mississippi.

661 (g) "Operator" means every person who is in actual
662 physical control of a motor vehicle.

663 (h) "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title of
664 a motor vehicle; in the event a motor vehicle is the subject of an
665 agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right
666 of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the



667 agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the
668 conditional vendee or lessee or in the event a mortgagor of a
669 vehicle is entitled to possession, then such conditional vendee or
670 lessee or mortgagor shall be deemed the owner for the purpose of
671 this chapter.

672 (i) "Person" means every natural person, firm,
673 copartnership, association or corporation.

674 (j) "Proof of financial responsibility" means proof of
675 ability to respond in damages for liability, on account of
676 accidents occurring subsequent to the effective date of said
677 proof, arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of a motor
678 vehicle, in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars
679 (\$25,000.00) because of bodily injury to or death of one (1)
680 person in any one (1) accident, and subject to said limit for one
681 (1) person, in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)
682 because of bodily injury to or death of two (2) or more persons in
683 any one (1) accident, and in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand
684 Dollars (\$25,000.00) because of injury to or destruction of
685 property of others in any one (1) accident. Liability insurance
686 required under this paragraph (j) may contain exclusions and
687 limitations on coverage as long as the exclusions and limitations
688 language or form has been filed with and approved by the
689 Commissioner of Insurance.



690 (k) "Registration" means a certificate or certificates
691 and registration plates issued under the laws of this state
692 pertaining to the registration of motor vehicles.

693 (l) "Department" means the Department of Public Safety
694 of the State of Mississippi, acting directly or through its
695 authorized officers and agents, except in such sections of this
696 chapter in which some other state department is specifically
697 named.

698 (m) "State" means any state, territory or possession of
699 the United States, the District of Columbia, or any province of
700 the Dominion of Canada.

701 **SECTION 9.** Section 63-21-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
702 amended as follows:

703 63-21-5. The following words and phrases when used in this
704 chapter shall, for the purpose of this chapter, have the meanings
705 respectively ascribed to them in this section except where the
706 context clearly indicates a different meaning:

707 (a) "State Tax Commission" or "department" means the
708 Department of Revenue of the State of Mississippi.

709 (b) "Dealer" means every person engaged regularly in
710 the business of buying, selling or exchanging motor vehicles,
711 trailers, semitrailers, trucks, tractors or other character of
712 commercial or industrial motor vehicles in this state, and having
713 in this state an established place of business as defined in
714 Section 27-19-303 * * *. The term "dealer" shall also mean every



715 person engaged regularly in the business of buying, selling or
716 exchanging manufactured housing in this state, and licensed as a
717 dealer of manufactured housing by the Mississippi Department of
718 Insurance.

719 (c) "Designated agent" means each county tax collector
720 in this state who may perform his duties under this chapter either
721 personally or through any of his deputies, or such other persons
722 as the Department of Revenue may designate. The term shall also
723 mean those "dealers" as herein defined and/or their officers and
724 employees and other persons who are appointed by the Department of
725 Revenue in the manner provided in Section 63-21-13 * * * to
726 perform the duties of "designated agent" for the purposes of this
727 chapter.

728 (d) "Implement of husbandry" means every vehicle
729 designed and adapted exclusively for agricultural, horticultural
730 or livestock raising operations or for lifting or carrying an
731 implement of husbandry and in either case not subject to
732 registration if used upon the highways.

733 (e) "Vehicle identification number" means the numbers
734 and letters on a vehicle, manufactured home or mobile home
735 designated by the manufacturer or assigned by the Department of
736 Revenue for the purpose of identifying the vehicle, manufactured
737 home or mobile home.

738 (f) "Lien" means every kind of written lease which is
739 substantially equivalent to an installment sale or which provides



for a right of purchase; conditional sale; reservation of title;
deed of trust; chattel mortgage; trust receipt; and every other
written agreement or instrument of whatever kind or character
whereby an interest other than absolute title is sought to be held
or given on a motor vehicle, manufactured home or mobile home.

(g) "Lienholder" means any natural person, firm,
copartnership, association or corporation holding a lien as herein
defined on a motor vehicle, manufactured home or mobile home.

(h) "Manufactured housing" or "manufactured home" means
any structure, transportable in one or more sections, which in the
traveling mode, is eight (8) body feet or more in width or forty
(40) body feet or more in length or, when erected on site, is
three hundred twenty (320) or more square feet and which is built
on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with
or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required
utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning
and electrical systems contained therein; except that such terms
shall include any structure which meets all the requirements of
this paragraph except the size requirements and with respect to
which the manufacturer voluntarily files a certification required
by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and complies
with the standards established under the National Manufactured
Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, 42 USCS,
Section 5401.



764 (i) "Manufacturer" means any person regularly engaged
765 in the business of manufacturing, constructing or assembling motor
766 vehicles, manufactured homes or mobile homes, either within or
767 without this state.

768 (j) "Mobile home" means any structure, transportable in
769 one or more sections, which in the traveling mode, is eight (8)
770 body feet or more in width or forty (40) body feet or more in
771 length or, when erected on site, is three hundred twenty (320) or
772 more square feet and which is built on a permanent chassis and
773 designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent
774 foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes
775 the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning and electrical systems
776 contained therein and manufactured prior to June 15, 1976. Any
777 mobile home designated as realty on or before July 1, 1999, shall
778 continue to be designated as realty so that a security interest
779 will be made by incorporating such mobile home in a deed of trust.

780 (k) "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a
781 seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on
782 not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, but
783 excluding a farm tractor, personal delivery device and electric
784 bicycle.

785 (l) "Motor vehicle" means every automobile, motorcycle,
786 mobile trailer, semitrailer, truck, truck tractor, trailer and
787 every other device in, upon, or by which any person or property is
788 or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway which is



789 required to have a road or bridge privilege license, except such
790 as is moved by animal power or used exclusively upon stationary
791 rails or tracks, and excepting electric bicycles and personal
792 delivery devices.

793 (m) "New vehicle" means a motor vehicle, manufactured
794 home or mobile home which has never been the subject of a first
795 sale for use.

796 (n) "Used vehicle" means a motor vehicle, manufactured
797 home or mobile home that has been the subject of a first sale for
798 use, whether within this state or elsewhere.

799 (o) "Owner" means a person or persons holding the legal
800 title of a vehicle, manufactured home or mobile home; in the event
801 a vehicle, manufactured home or mobile home is the subject of a
802 deed of trust or a chattel mortgage or an agreement for the
803 conditional sale or lease thereof or other like agreement, with
804 the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in
805 the agreement and with the immediate right of possession vested in
806 the grantor in the deed of trust, mortgagor, conditional vendee or
807 lessee, the grantor, mortgagor, conditional vendee or lessee shall
808 be deemed the owner for the purpose of this chapter.

809 (p) "Person" includes every natural person, firm,
810 copartnership, association or corporation.

811 (q) "Pole trailer" means every vehicle without motive
812 power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the
813 towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole, or by being boomed or



814 otherwise secured to the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for
815 transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles,
816 pipes, boats or structural members capable generally of sustaining
817 themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

818 (r) "Security agreement" means a written agreement
819 which reserves or creates a security interest.

820 (s) "Security interest" means an interest in a vehicle,
821 manufactured home or mobile home reserved or created by agreement
822 and which secures payment or performance of an obligation. The
823 term includes the interest of a lessor under a lease intended as
824 security. A security interest is "perfected" when it is valid
825 against third parties generally, subject only to specific
826 statutory exceptions.

827 (t) "Special mobile equipment" means every vehicle not
828 designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or
829 property and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway,
830 including, but not limited to: ditch-digging apparatus,
831 well-boring apparatus and road construction and maintenance
832 machinery such as asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket
833 loaders, tractors other than truck tractors, ditchers, leveling
834 graders, finishing machines, motor graders, road rollers,
835 scarifiers, earth-moving carryalls and scrapers, power shovels and
836 draglines, and self-propelled cranes, vehicles so constructed that
837 they exceed eight (8) feet in width and/or thirteen (13) feet six
838 (6) inches in height, and earth-moving equipment. The term does



839 not include house trailers, dump trucks, truck-mounted transit
840 mixers, cranes or shovels, or other vehicles designed for the
841 transportation of persons or property to which machinery has been
842 attached.

843 (u) "Nonresident" means every person who is not a
844 resident of this state.

845 (v) "Current address" means a new address different
846 from the address shown on the application or on the certificate of
847 title. The owner shall within thirty (30) days after his or her
848 address is changed from that shown on the application or on the
849 certificate of title notify the department of the change of
850 address in the manner prescribed by the department.

851 (w) "Odometer" means an instrument for measuring and
852 recording the actual distance a motor vehicle travels while in
853 operation; but shall not include any auxiliary instrument designed
854 to be reset by the operator of the motor vehicle for the purpose
855 of recording the distance traveled on trips.

856 (x) "Odometer reading" means the actual cumulative
857 distance traveled disclosed on the odometer.

858 (y) "Odometer disclosure statement" means a statement
859 certified by the owner of the motor vehicle to the transferee or
860 to the department as to the odometer reading.

861 (z) "Mileage" means actual distance that a vehicle has
862 traveled.



863 (aa) "Trailer" means every vehicle other than a "pole
864 trailer" as defined in this chapter without motive power designed
865 to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle
866 for the purpose of hauling goods or products. The term "trailer"
867 shall not refer to any structure, transportable in one or more
868 sections regardless of size, when erected on site, and which is
869 built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling
870 with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the
871 required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating,
872 air-conditioning and electrical systems contained therein
873 regardless of the date of manufacture.

874 (bb) "Salvage mobile home" or "salvage manufactured
875 home" means a mobile home or manufactured home for which a
876 certificate of title has been issued that an insurance company
877 obtains from the owner as a result of paying a total loss claim
878 resulting from collision, fire, flood, wind or other occurrence.
879 The term "salvage mobile home" or "salvage manufactured home" does
880 not mean or include and is not applicable to a mobile home or
881 manufactured home that is twenty (20) years old or older.

882 (cc) "Salvage certificate of title" means a document
883 issued by the department for a salvage mobile home or salvage
884 manufactured home as defined in this chapter.

885 (dd) "All-terrain vehicle" means a motor vehicle that
886 is designed for off-road use and is not required to have a motor
887 vehicle privilege license unless operated on roads under Section



888 63-31-3. The term "all-terrain vehicle" shall not include
889 electric bicycles.

890 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
891 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2025.

