

By: Representative Compretta

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1121

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-7-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE USE OF AUXILIARY WHITE LIGHTS MOUNTED ON OR VISIBLE
3 FROM THE REAR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IF THE LIGHTS ARE DESIGNED BY THE
4 MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURER SO THAT THEY MAY ONLY BE ILLUMINATED
5 WHENEVER THE VEHICLE IS NOT IN MOTION AND THE TRANSMISSION OF THE
6 VEHICLE IS IN THE PARK POSITION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 63-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 63-7-23. The color of lighting devices shall be as follows:

11 (a) All front clearance lamps, and all side marker
12 lamps, except the one on each side at or near the rear of any bus,
13 truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer or pole trailer,
14 shall when lighted display an amber color.

15 (b) No red lighting device of any character shall be
16 mounted at any place other than on or near the rear of any bus,
17 truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer or pole trailer.
18 However, school buses owned by or under contract with a school
19 district of this state may have affixed at or near the front end
20 thereof red lighting devices that may be caused to blink when the
21 school bus is stopped or in the process of stopping for the
22 purpose of loading or unloading school children. A school bus
23 also may be equipped with a white, flashing strobe light on the
24 roof of the vehicle installed according to standards promulgated
25 by the Mississippi Department of Education as authorized under
26 Section 37-41-1(c).

27 (c) All rear clearance lamps, the side marker lamps on
28 each side at or near the rear, and any other lamps mounted on the

29 rear, on any bus, truck, truck tractor, semitrailer, full trailer
30 or pole trailer shall when lighted display a red color. However,
31 the stoplight or other warning device on the rear of any motor
32 vehicle may be red or amber.

33 (d) Backing lights of any color may be mounted on the
34 rear of any motor vehicle if the switch controlling such lights be
35 so arranged that they may be turned on only when the vehicle is in
36 reverse gear. Such backing lights when unlighted shall be so
37 colored or otherwise arranged as not to reflect objectionable
38 glare in the eyes of drivers of vehicles approaching from the
39 rear.

40 (e) Auxiliary white lights mounted on or near the rear
41 of a motor vehicle, or visible from the rear of the vehicle, are
42 not prohibited under the provisions of this section if the lights
43 are designed by the motor vehicle manufacturer so that they may
44 only be illuminated whenever the vehicle is not in motion and the
45 transmission of the vehicle is in the park position.

46 No provision of this section shall be so construed as to
47 prohibit the use of any white light or lights for the purpose of
48 illuminating license plates.

49 Any lamps on a vehicle, other than those expressly required
50 or permitted by the provisions of this chapter, shall, if visible
51 from the front, display a white or amber light; if visible from
52 either side, display an amber light; and if visible from the rear,
53 display a red light.

54 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2001.