

By: Senator(s) Walls

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2499

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-603, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE MOTORISTS TRAVELING ON A HIGHWAY THAT HAS BEEN DIVIDED
3 INTO FOUR OR MORE LANES TO TRAVEL IN THE RIGHT LANE AND YIELD TO
4 MOTORISTS TRAVELING AT A GREATER RATE OF SPEED; TO REQUIRE THE
5 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ERECT SIGNS DIRECTING
6 SLOW-MOVING TRAFFIC TO USE THE RIGHT LANE ON HIGHWAYS DIVIDED INTO
7 FOUR OR MORE LANES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-3-603, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 63-3-603. (1) Whenever any roadway has been divided into
12 three (3) or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, except through
13 or bypassing a municipality, the following rules in addition to
14 all others consistent herewith shall apply:

15 (a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practical
16 entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such
17 lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can
18 be made with safety.

19 (b) A vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane
20 upon a roadway which is divided into three (3) lanes except when:

21 (i) Overtaking and passing another vehicle where
22 the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of
23 traffic within a safe distance;

24 (ii) Such vehicle is in preparation for a left
25 turn; or

26 (iii) Such center lane is at the time allocated
27 exclusively to traffic moving in the direction such vehicle is
28 proceeding and is signposted to give notice of such allocation.

29 (c) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving
30 traffic to use a designated lane or allocating specified lanes to
31 traffic moving in the same direction, and drivers of vehicles
32 shall obey the directions of every such sign.

33 (d) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less
34 than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under
35 the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand
36 lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the
37 right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and
38 passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when
39 preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private
40 road or driveway.

41 (e) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not
42 ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of
43 roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons
44 riding two (2) abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable
45 movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a
46 single lane.

47 (2) (a) Motorists traveling on any highway that has been
48 divided into four (4) or more clearly marked lanes for traffic
49 shall travel in the right lane and shall yield to motorists
50 traveling at a greater rate of speed. Violators shall be fined
51 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).

52 (b) Whenever any highway has been divided into four (4)
53 or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, the Mississippi
54 Department of Transportation shall erect signs directing
55 slow-moving traffic to use the right lane, and that violators will
56 be fined.

57 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
58 and after July 1, 2005.