

By: Representative Busby

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1343
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DEFINE THE TERM "PLATOON" FOR THE PURPOSES OF CERTAIN MOTOR
3 VEHICLE LAWS; TO AMEND SECTION 63-3-619, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
4 TO EXEMPT CERTAIN VEHICLE OPERATORS IN A PLATOON FROM PROVISIONS
5 OF LAW REQUIRING CERTAIN DISTANCES TO BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN
6 TRAVELING VEHICLES; TO REQUIRE PLANS FOR THE OPERATION OF A
7 PLATOON TO BE FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; TO
8 PROVIDE THAT THE PLANS ARE ACCEPTED OR REJECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT
9 OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WITHIN 30 DAYS
10 OF FILING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-3-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
13 amended as follows:

14 63-3-103. (a) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by
15 which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn
16 upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary
17 rails or tracks.

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



23 (c) "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a saddle
24 for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than
25 three (3) wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a
26 tractor. The term "motorcycle" includes motor scooters as defined
27 in paragraph (j) of this subsection.

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

37 (e) "School bus" means every motor vehicle operated for the
38 transportation of children to or from any school, provided same is
39 plainly marked "School Bus" on the front and rear thereof and
40 meets the requirements of the State Board of Education as
41 authorized under Section 37-41-1.

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



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

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

56 (i) "Autocycle" means a motorcycle with three (3) wheels
57 that is completely enclosed with a roll cage or roll bar,
58 automotive controls and seat belts.

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

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

69 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-3-619, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
70 amended as follows:

71 63-3-619. (1) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not
72 follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and



73 prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the
74 traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

75 (2) The driver of any motor truck or motor truck drawing
76 another vehicle when traveling upon a roadway outside of a
77 business or residence district shall not follow within three
78 hundred (300) feet of another motor truck or motor truck drawing
79 another vehicle. The provisions of this subsection shall not be
80 construed to prevent overtaking and passing nor shall the same
81 apply upon any lane specially designated for use by motor trucks.

82 (3) (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this
83 subsection, subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall not
84 apply to the operator of a nonlead vehicle in a platoon, as
85 defined in Section 63-3-103(k), as long as the platoon is
86 operating on a limited access divided highway with more than one
87 (1) lane in each direction and the platoon consists of not more
88 than two (2) motor vehicles.

89 (b) A platoon may be operated in this state only after
90 an operator files a plan for approval of general platoon
91 operations with the Department of Transportation. If that
92 department approves the submission, it shall forward the plan to
93 the Department of Public Safety for approval. The plan shall be
94 reviewed and either approved or disapproved by the Department of
95 Transportation and the Department of Public Safety within thirty
96 (30) days after it is filed. If approved by both departments, the
97 operator shall be allowed to operate the platoon five (5) working



98 days after plan approval. The Motor Carrier Division of the
99 Department of Public Safety shall develop the acceptable standards
100 required for each portion of the plan.

101 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
102 and after January 1, 2019.

