

By: Representatives Shanks, Tullos, Felsher

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 349
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE SECTION 63-7-105, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS THAT RESULT IN THE
3 MOTOR VEHICLES' FRONT FENDERS BEING RAISED FOUR OR MORE INCHES
4 GREATER THAN THE HEIGHT OF THE REAR FENDERS, TO PROVIDE AN
5 EXEMPTION FROM THE NEW SUSPENSION MODIFICATION RULE, TO PROVIDE
6 FOR THE MANNER OF MEASURING THE HEIGHT OF THE FENDERS, TO DEFINE
7 RELEVANT TERMS, AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; TO CREATE
8 SECTION 63-7-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THAT FINES
9 COLLECTED DUE TO VIOLATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 63-7-105
10 BE DEPOSITED INTO THE STATE GENERAL FUND AND UTILIZED IN THEIR
11 ENTIRETY TO AID IN FUNDING SECONDARY SCHOOL DRIVER EDUCATION
12 PROGRAMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
15 63-7-105, Mississippi Code of 1972:

16 63-7-105. (1) For purposes of this section:

17 (a) The height of the fender shall be a vertical
18 measurement from, and perpendicular to, the ground, through the
19 centerline of the wheel, and to the bottom of the fender.

20 (b) "Fender" means the pressed and formed part mounted
21 over the road wheels of a motor vehicle to reduce the splashing of
22 mud, water or similar substances.



23 (c) "Squatted vehicles" means vehicles whose front
24 fenders have been raised four (4) or more inches greater than the
25 rear fenders. The described modification makes a vehicle appear
26 as if it is "squatting" on its back tires.

27 (2) (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a
28 passenger motor vehicle on the streets or highways of this state
29 if, by alteration of the suspension, frame or chassis, the height
30 of the front fender is raised four (4) or more inches greater than
31 the height of the rear fender.

32 (b) Motor vehicles equipped with high clearance fenders
33 to allow for increased front suspension articulation shall be
34 exempt from the provision of paragraph (a) of this subsection.

35 (3) A person who violates the provisions of this subsection
36 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction:

37 (a) For a first offense, shall be fined One Hundred
38 Dollars (\$100.00);

39 (b) For a second offense, shall be fined Two Hundred
40 Dollars (\$200.00); and

41 (c) For a third or subsequent offense, shall be fined
42 Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) and have his or her license
43 suspended by the Commission of Public Safety for a period of
44 twelve (12) months from the date of conviction.

45 (4) Only offenses which occur within five (5) years of each
46 other, including and immediately preceding the date of the last



47 offense, shall constitute a prior offense within the meaning of
48 this subsection.

49 (5) The penalties for this section shall take effect one
50 hundred eighty (180) days after the effective date. For a period
51 of one hundred eighty (180) days after the effective date, state
52 and local law enforcement officers shall only issue warning
53 tickets for a violation of the provisions of this section. From
54 and after January 27, 2025, state and local law enforcement
55 officers shall issue tickets that assess penalties, as outlined in
56 subsection (3) of this section, to drivers of squatted vehicles.

57 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
58 63-7-107, Mississippi Code of 1972:

59 63-7-107. (1) The fines assessed and collected as a result
60 of violating the provisions of Section 63-7-105 shall be deposited
61 into the State General Fund and used in their entirety to aid in
62 funding Secondary School Driver Education and Training Programs,
63 as established by Senate Bill No. 2695, 2024 Regular Session.

64 (2) Section 63-7-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall go
65 into effect from and after the passage date, if any, of Senate
66 Bill No. 2695, 2024 Regular Session.

67 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
68 and after July 1, 2024.

