

HOUSE BILL 3851

By Marsh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,  
Chapter 9, Part 2, relative to safety devices on  
trailers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 9, Part 2, is amended by  
adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 55-9-218.

(a) As used in this section, a "safety device" means any locking  
mechanism that locks a trailer hitch into place between the trailer and ball hitch of  
the motor vehicle towing the trailer.

(b) No person shall tow a trailer without a safety device approved by the  
department of safety that will prevent the trailer from becoming unhitched while  
being transported.

(c) The safety device shall provide strength, security of attachment, and  
directional stability equal to or greater than that provided by safety chains.

(d) The safety device shall prevent the detachment of the trailer from the  
towing vehicle should the regular coupling device fastening the trailer to the  
towing vehicle break, fail, or otherwise become disconnected.

(e) The safety device shall be designed, constructed, and installed to  
ensure that the coupling device does not drop to the ground if the coupling  
device breaks, fails, or otherwise becomes disconnected.

(f) Commercial vehicles subject to 49 C.F.R., Part 393, Subpart F,  
Coupling Devices and Towing Methods, shall be subject to this section.

(g) The commissioner of safety shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section.

(h) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.