

By: Representative Cameron

To: Insurance

HOUSE BILL NO. 329

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 63-15-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PROOF OF MOTOR
3 VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE OR OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL
4 RESPONSIBILITY AS REQUIRED BY THIS CHAPTER BEFORE RECEIVING MOTOR
5 VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section

8 63-15-8, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 63-15-8. (1) Every owner of a motor vehicle in this state
10 shall furnish proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other
11 form of financial responsibility as required by this chapter
12 before such owner may receive a license tag for a motor vehicle or
13 renew a license tag. Proof of motor vehicle liability insurance
14 or other form of financial responsibility as required by this
15 chapter shall be made by signing a certificate on a form
16 prescribed by the Commissioner of Insurance, stating that the
17 motor vehicle owner is insured or otherwise financially
18 responsible for at least the minimum requirements as provided by
19 this chapter and in any form as provided by this chapter. Such
20 certificate shall state in bold print that anyone who shall
21 affirmatively sign such certificate who is not insured or
22 otherwise financially responsible for at least the minimum
23 requirements as provided by this chapter shall be subject to a
24 fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and imprisonment for a
25 period not exceeding one (1) year or both such fine and
26 imprisonment. Such certificate shall be furnished to each motor
27 vehicle owner by the tax collector of the county where the motor

28 vehicle is registered. The tax collector shall mail such
29 certificate with a motor vehicle tag renewal notice that shall be
30 mailed back to the tax collector before a tag may be renewed. The
31 tax collectors shall also make such certificates available at the
32 tax collectors' offices during regular business hours. The tax
33 collector shall forward a copy of the certificate to the
34 Department of Public Safety and shall keep the original in the tax
35 collector's records.

36 (2) Any person who presents or causes to be presented to the
37 department or to any court of this state false evidence of motor
38 vehicle liability insurance or other form of financial
39 responsibility as required by this chapter, upon conviction, shall
40 be guilty of perjury and shall be fined Five Hundred Dollars
41 (\$500.00) and shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not
42 exceeding one (1) year or both such fine and imprisonment. This
43 fine and imprisonment shall be waived if the offender chooses to
44 purchase, and provides proof of such purchase by the court date,
45 of motor vehicle liability insurance for a minimum of six (6)
46 months' coverage in at least the minimum amounts required under
47 paragraph (j) of Section 63-15-3. Any person convicted of filing
48 false proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other form of
49 financial responsibility as required by this chapter shall
50 surrender to the department his driver's license, license plates
51 and registration of the motor vehicle for which false proof was
52 presented and the procedure for the suspension of licenses
53 provided in Section 63-15-11 relating to accidents shall be
54 followed. Such driver's license, license plates and registration
55 shall be reinstated upon payment of any fines and reinstatement
56 fees, serving of a sentence if applicable, upon presentation of
57 proof of financial responsibility for a period of one (1) year or
58 upon presentation of proof of purchase of minimum motor vehicle
59 liability insurance in accordance with the provisions of this
60 subsection. The district attorney of the jurisdiction where any
61 false evidence is filed shall prosecute any violations of this
62 section. Any person convicted under this section shall be
63 assessed with all costs of prosecution and all court costs.

64 (3) All insurance carriers are required to notify the

65 appropriate tax collector and sheriff and the department when
66 there is a lapse of the liability coverage that was purchased in
67 accordance with this section. Upon such notification, the sheriff
68 may confiscate the motor vehicle license tag, which tag may be
69 returned to the owner in the manner provided in this section.

70 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after July 1, 1999.