

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Insurance

## HOUSE BILL NO. 339

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 FINANCIAL  
3 RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE RECEIVING MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS; AND  
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section  
7 63-15-8, Mississippi Code of 1972:

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

28 hours. The tax collector shall forward a copy of the certificate  
29 to the Department of Public Safety and shall keep the original in  
30 the tax collector's records.

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

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