

By: Representative Rogers

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 492

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.12, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO AUTHORIZE DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES TO BE
3 ISSUED TO ANY HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATES
4 ARMED FORCES; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO IS QUALIFIED TO BE
5 ISSUED SUCH DISTINCTIVE PLATE MAY OBTAIN A DISTINCTIVE PLATE FOR
6 EACH MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTERED IN HIS NAME; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH
7 DISTINCTIVE PLATES SHALL BE OF A COLOR AND DESIGN AS MAY BE AGREED
8 UPON BY THE STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD AND THE STATE TAX
9 COMMISSION; TO AUTHORIZE THE TAX COMMISSION TO DEVELOP DECALS TO
10 BE AFFIXED TO SUCH DISTINCTIVE PLATES INDICATING THE BRANCH OF
11 SERVICE IN WHICH THE VETERAN SERVED, ANY MEDALS AWARDED TO THE
12 VETERAN AND ANY WAR OR CONFLICT IN WHICH HE SERVED; TO PROVIDE
13 THAT THE ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH DISTINCTIVE PLATES SHALL BE A
14 ONE-TIME FEE OF THIRTY DOLLARS; TO REVISE THE TYPES OF DOCUMENTS
15 THAT MAY BE PRESENTED TO THE ISSUING OFFICIAL TO EVIDENCE THE
16 VETERAN'S MILITARY SERVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 SECTION 1. Section 27-19-56.12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
19 amended as follows:

20 27-19-56.12. In recognition of the patriotic service
21 rendered by Mississippians who are honorably discharged veterans
22 who served in the United States Armed Forces, * * * any such
23 person is privileged to obtain a distinctive motor vehicle license
24 plate or tag for each vehicle registered in his name identifying
25 him as a veteran. The State Tax Commission is further authorized
26 to develop * * * decals to be affixed to the license tag
27 indicating the branch of service in which the veteran served, any
28 medals that were awarded to him and any war or conflict in which
29 he served. The distinctive plates or tags shall be of a color and
30 design as may be agreed upon by the State Veterans Affairs Board
31 and the State Tax Commission. The State Tax Commission shall have
32 final approval of the color and design.

33 The distinctive license plates shall be prepared by the Tax

34 Commission and shall be issued through the tax collectors of the
35 counties in the same manner as are other motor vehicle license
36 plates or tags. An additional one-time tag fee of Thirty Dollars
37 (\$30.00) shall be collected by the tax collector for such license
38 plates or tags and shall be forwarded to the Tax Commission which
39 shall deposit such fee to the credit of a fund to be administered
40 by the board overseeing the veterans nursing homes in this state
41 for the benefit of indigent veterans who are residents of such
42 nursing homes.

43 An applicant for such distinctive plates shall present to the
44 issuing official written evidence of the veteran's service. Such
45 evidence shall include a copy of the applicant's DD-214 form, a
46 Report of Separation From Military Service, a military discharge
47 document or a written certification of military service from the
48 State Veterans Affairs Board. The distinctive license plates or
49 tags so issued shall be used only upon a personally or jointly
50 owned private passenger vehicle (to include station wagons,
51 recreational motor vehicles and pickup trucks) registered in the
52 name, or jointly in the name, of the person making application
53 therefor, and when issued to such person shall be used upon the
54 vehicle for which issued in lieu of the standard license plate or
55 license tag normally issued for such vehicle.

56 The distinctive license plates shall not be transferable
57 between motor vehicle owners; and in the event the owner of a
58 vehicle bearing a distinctive plate shall sell, trade, exchange or
59 otherwise dispose of the vehicle, such plate shall be retained by
60 such owner and returned to the tax collector.

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