

By: Representatives Peranich, Compretta

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1131

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION 27-19-56.15, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE
3 TAGS IN SUPPORT OF MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE REHABILITATION
4 ORGANIZATIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE FEES COLLECTED FOR
5 SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO MISSISSIPPI
6 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION ORGANIZATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
9 27-19-56.15, Mississippi Code of 1972:

10 27-19-56.15. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
11 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
12 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
13 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
14 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
15 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
16 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor
17 vehicle registered in his name, which license tag shall display a
18 wild animal native to the State of Mississippi and the words
19 "Wildlife Rehabilitation." The native Mississippi wild animal
20 emblem shall be chosen by the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature
21 Preservation Society, Inc. (WRANPS), and the words "Wildlife
22 Rehabilitation" shall be affixed during the production of the
23 license tag. The State Tax Commission shall prescribe such
24 letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish
25 each license tag.

26 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
27 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
28 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the

29 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
30 five percent (5%) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
31 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7)
32 days of the date the application is made. The portion of the
33 additional fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited
34 into the county general fund.

35 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
36 after July 1, 1999, any person applying for a distinctive license
37 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
38 of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each distinctive license tag applied
39 for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other
40 taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of
41 time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established license tag
42 year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the
43 original application is made for a distinctive license tag under
44 this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal
45 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license
46 tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license
47 tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

48 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
49 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
50 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
51 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
52 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
53 Treasurer shall distribute an amount equal to Seven Dollars
54 (\$7.00) of the additional fees collected for each such distinctive
55 license tag issued under this section to the State General Fund,
56 and the remainder of such additional fees collected shall be
57 distributed by the State Treasurer as follows:

58 (a) Thirty-two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$32.50) of each
59 additional fee collected from issuance of the distinctive license
60 tags shall be deposited into a special fund that is created in the
61 State Treasury to the credit of all Mississippi wildlife
62 rehabilitation organizations collectively that hold current state
63 and federal licenses. The funds shall be made available at the
64 beginning of each calendar year to each wildlife rehabilitation
65 organization on a pro rata basis in accordance with the numbers of

66 native wild animals each organization has rehabilitated for the
67 past year. These numbers shall be based on annual reports
68 currently submitted to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
69 Fisheries and Parks, and the United States Fish and Wildlife
70 Service. It shall be the responsibility of the WRANPS to submit a
71 final tally of numbers for each licensed wildlife organization to
72 the State Tax Commission before the commission's final
73 disbursement of funds. WRANPS shall further be responsible for
74 sending a copy of this tally to each licensed wildlife
75 rehabilitation organization.

76 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
77 on special license tags issued under this section shall be
78 deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn Center
79 Fund created under Section 7-9-70.

80 (c) The remainder of each such additional fee shall be
81 deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be expended
82 solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction
83 of highways.

84 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
85 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
86 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
87 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
88 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
89 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
90 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
91 tag.

92 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
93 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
94 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
95 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
96 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
97 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
98 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee

99 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
100 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
101 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

102 (7) Each licensed wildlife organization shall be responsible
103 for placement of a poster notifying the public of the availability
104 of the distinctive license tag at each courthouse within the
105 organization's county. Each licensed wildlife organization shall
106 pay a pro rata share of any printing costs associated with the
107 poster to WRANPS within sixty (60) days of receipt of a billing
108 notice. Each organization may further market the tag at its own
109 expense.

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