

By: Representative Stringer

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1257

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 WHICH DISPLAY AN EMBLEM DESIGNED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SOIL AND
4 WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE
5 STATE TREASURY FOR THE DEPOSIT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEES COLLECTED
6 FROM THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS; TO AUTHORIZE
7 THE EXPENDITURE OF MONIES IN THE SPECIAL FUND BY THE MISSISSIPPI
8 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT,
9 PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS RELATING TO
10 NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
13 27-19-56.15, Mississippi Code of 1972:

14 27-19-56.15. (1) Owners of motor vehicles upon complying
15 with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing
16 of motor vehicles, and upon payment of the road and bridge
17 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
18 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
19 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
20 an additional annual fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00),
21 shall be issued a special license tag which displays an emblem
22 designed by the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation
23 Commission.

24 (2) The Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
25 shall design an emblem which shall be displayed on the special
26 license tag. The emblem shall be affixed during the production of
27 the license tag.

28 (3) Application for the special license tags shall be made
29 to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax
30 Commission. The application and the additional fee, less five

31 percent (5%) thereof to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
32 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the
33 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee
34 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
35 general fund.

36 (4) The special license tag shall be issued for a one-year
37 period. The additional annual fee shall be due and payable at the
38 time of renewal registration.

39 (5) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
40 State Treasury on the day received. At the end of each month, the
41 State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected under
42 this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute such
43 collections as follows:

44 (a) Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of each additional fee
45 collected on special license tags issued pursuant to this section
46 shall be deposited into the Natural Resources Conservation
47 Education Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this act.

48 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
49 on special license tags shall be deposited into the Mississippi
50 Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn Center Fund created pursuant to
51 Section 7-9-70.

52 (c) The remainder of each such additional fee shall be
53 deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be expended
54 solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction
55 of highways.

56 SECTION 2. There is created in the State Treasury a special
57 fund to be designated as the "Natural Resources Conservation
58 Education Fund." The fund shall consist of such monies or are
59 required to be deposited there in under Section 27-19-56.15; any
60 gifts, grants or other contributions from any federal, state or
61 local government or any person, firm or corporation; and such
62 other monies as the Legislature may appropriate or authorize to be
63 deposited into the fund. Monies in the fund may be used upon
64 appropriation by the Legislature, by the Mississippi Soil and
65 Water Conservation Commission to develop, produce and distribute
66 materials used to educate individuals, groups or both, as to the
67 natural resources of the State of Mississippi and the conservation

68 of such resources.

69 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
70 and after July 1, 1999.