

By: Senator(s) Hawks, Johnson (19th),  
Scoper, Dickerson, Harvey

To: Finance

## SENATE BILL NO. 2911

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A DISTINCTIVE MOTOR  
2 VEHICLE LICENSE TAG BEARING THE EMBLEM DESIGNED BY THE MISSISSIPPI  
3 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE THAT A CERTAIN  
4 PORTION OF THE FEE COLLECTED FOR SUCH TAGS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO  
5 THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION EDUCATION FUND; TO CREATE THE  
6 NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION EDUCATION FUND AND TO PROVIDE THAT  
7 MONEY IN SUCH FUND MAY BE USED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SOIL AND WATER  
8 CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE MATERIALS FOR  
9 NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

20 (2) The Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
21 shall design emblems which shall be displayed on the special  
22 license tag. The emblem shall be affixed during the production of  
23 the license tag.

24 (3) Application for the special license tags shall be made  
25 to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax  
26 Commission. The application and the additional fee, less five  
27 percent (5%) thereof to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
28 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
29 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee

30 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
31 general fund.

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

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

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

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

48 (c) The remainder of each such additional fee shall be  
49 deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be expended  
50 solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction  
51 of highways.

52 SECTION 2. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a  
53 special fund designated as the Natural Resources Conservation  
54 Education Fund to be used by the Mississippi Soil and Water  
55 Conservation Commission to develop, produce and distribute  
56 materials to educate individuals or groups regarding the natural  
57 resources of the State of Mississippi and the conservation of such  
58 resources.

59 (2) The Natural Resources Conservation Education Fund shall  
60 be funded by money required to be deposited in such fund pursuant  
61 to Section 1 of this act, such money as may be appropriated to  
62 such fund by the Legislature and such money as may be donated to  
63 such fund by gift or bequest.

64 (3) The State Treasurer shall make disbursements from the  
65 Natural Resources Conservation Education Fund for the purposes  
66 provided for in subsection (1) of this section upon requisition by

67 the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission and upon  
68 the issuance of warrants by the Department of Finance and  
69 Administration.

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