

By: Moak, Rotenberry, Reynolds, Eads

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 280

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 27-19-56.15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE
3 OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS THAT DISPLAY THE EMBLEM OF PUBLIC
4 UNIVERSITIES LOCATED IN OTHER STATES; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL FEE
5 FOR SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE
6 SHALL BE FORWARDED TO SUCH OTHER STATES AND USED TO AWARD
7 SCHOLARSHIPS TO MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS WHO ATTEND PUBLIC
8 UNIVERSITIES IN SUCH STATES; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE
9 TREASURY FOR THE DEPOSIT OF MONIES COLLECTED BY OTHER STATES FROM
10 THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS IN SUCH STATES THAT
11 DISPLAY EMBLEMS OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE; TO PROVIDE
12 THAT MONIES IN THE SPECIAL FUND SHALL BE EXPENDED BY PUBLIC
13 UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO RESIDENTS OF
14 OTHER STATES WHO ATTEND PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE; AND FOR
15 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
18 27-19-56.15, Mississippi Code of 1972:

19 27-19-56.15. (1) (a) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
20 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws
21 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon
22 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes
23 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of
24 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,
25 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount of
26 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), shall be issued a distinctive license tag
27 that displays the emblem of any public university of his choice
28 located in another state if such other state has entered into a
29 reciprocal agreement with the State Tax Commission to issue
30 distinctive license tags in that state which display the emblems
31 of public universities located in Mississippi.

32 (b) The design of the emblems for the distinctive

33 license tags authorized under this subsection shall be determined
34 by agreement between the State Tax Commission and the license tag
35 issuing authorities and the governing authorities of public
36 universities in the states where the universities are located.
37 Such other design characteristics and information to be contained
38 on such distinctive license tags shall be determined by the State
39 Tax Commission.

40 (c) Application for the distinctive license tag
41 authorized under this subsection shall be made to the county tax
42 collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The
43 application and the additional fee, less five percent (5%) thereof
44 to be retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to the
45 State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the date that the
46 application is made. The portion of the additional fee retained
47 by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county general
48 fund.

49 (d) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees
50 that it receives under this subsection into the State Treasury on
51 the day received. At the end of each month, the State Tax
52 Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the total fees
53 remitted to it under this subsection and shall identify the states
54 and the public universities in such other states for which the
55 distinctive license tags have been issued. The State Treasurer
56 shall distribute such collections as follows:

57 (i) Ten Dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fees
58 collected from each distinctive license tag issued under this
59 subsection shall be deposited into the State General Fund;

60 (ii) The remainder of the additional fees shall be
61 forwarded by the State Treasurer to the treasurer of each of those
62 states for which distinctive license tags have been issued in this
63 state under the provisions of this subsection and shall be held,
64 invested and made available, in accordance with the terms of
65 reciprocal agreements entered into between this state and such

66 other states, for the award of scholarships to residents of this
67 state who attend public universities in such other states.

68 (2) (a) There is created in the State Treasury a special
69 fund to be designated as the "Team Tags Scholarship Fund". There
70 shall be deposited in such fund all monies which the state
71 receives from other states with which the State Tax Commission has
72 entered into a reciprocal agreement for the issuance of
73 distinctive public university license tags. On February 1 of each
74 year, the State Treasurer shall notify each university in this
75 state of the amount of money on deposit in the Team Tags
76 Scholarship Fund to the credit of the university and shall advise
77 each university of the number of scholarships that each university
78 may award based upon increments of One Thousand Dollars
79 (\$1,000.00).

80 (b) On August 15 of each year, money to the credit of a
81 university in the Team Tags Scholarship Fund may be expended by
82 warrant drawn on the fund by the appropriate officer of the
83 university. The warrants shall be made payable to those students
84 attending the university who are residents of a state with which
85 the State Tax Commission has entered into a reciprocal agreement
86 for the issuance of distinctive public university license tags.
87 The criteria for selection of those students who receive the
88 scholarship awards shall be determined by the governing
89 authorities of the university; however, money may be expended from
90 the fund for the award of scholarships only to students who are
91 residents of a state with which the State Tax Commission has
92 entered into a reciprocal agreement for the issuance of
93 distinctive public university license tags, and the total amount
94 of scholarships awarded to all students from the same state shall
95 not exceed the amount of monies on deposit in the Team Tags
96 Scholarship Fund to the credit of that state.

97 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
98 and after July 1, 2000.