

By: Moak, Rotenberry, Reynolds, Eads,  
Clarke, Perkins, Coleman (65th)

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 280  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS  
2 THAT DISPLAY THE EMBLEM OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES LOCATED IN OTHER  
3 STATES; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR  
4 THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH ADDITIONAL FEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE  
5 ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
6 COMMISSION FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR  
7 SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH ADDITIONAL  
8 FEES; TO AMEND SECTION 43-55-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN  
9 CONFORMITY THERETO; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE  
10 LICENSE TAGS TO CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS; TO IMPOSE  
11 AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION  
12 OF SUCH ADDITIONAL FEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE  
13 LICENSE TAGS IN SUPPORT OF ANIMAL CARE ORGANIZATIONS; TO IMPOSE AN  
14 ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF  
15 SUCH ADDITIONAL FEES; TO AMEND SECTION 69-15-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
16 OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF  
17 DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI SOIL AND  
18 WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR  
19 SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH ADDITIONAL  
20 FEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS TO  
21 MEMBERS OF CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR  
22 SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH ADDITIONAL  
23 FEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS IN  
24 SUPPORT OF MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE REHABILITATION ORGANIZATIONS; TO  
25 IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
26 DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH ADDITIONAL FEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF  
27 DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS TO MEMBERS OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY  
28 AND ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR  
29 SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH ADDITIONAL  
30 FEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS IN  
31 SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI SIERRA CLUB; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL  
32 FEE FOR SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH  
33 ADDITIONAL FEES; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE  
34 TAGS IN SUPPORT OF DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC.; TO IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL  
35 FEE FOR SUCH TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH  
36 ADDITIONAL FEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

38 SECTION 1. (1) (a) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
39 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws  
40 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon  
41 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes  
42 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of  
43 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,

44 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount of  
45 Thirty Dollars (\$30.00), shall be issued a distinctive license tag  
46 that displays the emblem of any public university of his choice  
47 located in another state.

48 (b) The design of the emblems for the distinctive  
49 license tags authorized under this subsection shall be determined  
50 by agreement between the State Tax Commission and the governing  
51 authorities of public universities in the states where the  
52 universities are located. Such other design characteristics and  
53 information to be contained on such distinctive license tags shall  
54 be determined by the State Tax Commission.

55 (c) Application for the distinctive license tag  
56 authorized under this subsection shall be made to the county tax  
57 collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The  
58 application and the additional fee, less Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be  
59 retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to the State Tax  
60 Commission within seven (7) days of the date that the application  
61 is made. The portion of the additional fee retained by the tax  
62 collector shall be deposited into the county general fund.

63 (d) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees  
64 that it receives under this subsection into the State Treasury on  
65 the day received. At the end of each month, the State Tax  
66 Commission shall certify the total fees collected under this  
67 section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute such  
68 collections as follows:

69 (i) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of the additional  
70 fees collected from each distinctive license tag issued under this  
71 subsection shall be distributed to the World War II Veterans  
72 Memorial in Washington, D.C. However, when the amounts  
73 distributed to the World War II Veterans Memorial reaches an  
74 aggregate amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00),  
75 then Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of such additional fees shall be  
76 deposited into the State General Fund.

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

81 (iii) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
82 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
83 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
84 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
85 reconstruction of highways.

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

94 (3) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
95 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
96 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
97 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
98 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
99 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
100 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
101 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
102 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
103 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

104 SECTION 2. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
105 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge  
106 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
107 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup  
108 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
109 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this  
110 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor  
111 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a  
112 supporter of the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service.  
113 The distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and

114 design as the State Tax Commission, with the advice of the  
115 Mississippi Commission on Volunteer Service, may prescribe and  
116 shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be  
117 necessary to distinguish each license tag.

118       (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
119 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
120 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
121 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
122 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
123 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
124 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
125 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
126 general fund.

127       (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
128 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license  
129 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
130 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
131 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
132 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
133 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
134 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
135 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
136 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
137 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
138 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
139 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
140 collector.

141       (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
142 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
143 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
144 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
145 such collections as follows:

146       (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee

147 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
148 section shall be deposited into the Mississippi Commission for  
149 Volunteer Service Fund created under Section 43-55-29.

150 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
151 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
152 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
153 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

154 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
155 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
156 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
157 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
158 reconstruction of highways.

159 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
160 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
161 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
162 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
163 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
164 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
165 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
166 tag.

167 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
168 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
169 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
170 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
171 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
172 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
173 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
174 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
175 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
176 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

177 SECTION 3. Section 43-55-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
178 amended as follows:

179 43-55-29. (1) There is established in the State Treasury a

180 fund known as the "Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service  
181 Fund" (hereinafter referred to as "fund"). The fund shall consist  
182 of monies obtained from contributions made pursuant to Section  
183 27-7-90, and from the additional fees collected under Section 2 of  
184 House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_, 2000 Regular Session. Monies in the fund,  
185 upon appropriation by the Legislature, may be expended by the  
186 Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, established in  
187 Section 43-55-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, to carry out the  
188 purposes of Sections 43-55-1 through 43-55-27, Mississippi Code of  
189 1972. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of the  
190 fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any  
191 interest earned on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the  
192 credit of the fund.

193 SECTION 4. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is an  
194 emergency medical technician certified under Chapter 59 of Title  
195 41, Mississippi Code of 1972, upon payment of the road and bridge  
196 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
197 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup  
198 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
199 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this  
200 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor  
201 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as an  
202 emergency medical technician. The distinctive license tags so  
203 issued shall be of such color and design as the State Tax  
204 Commission, with the advice of the Mississippi Department of  
205 Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services, may prescribe and  
206 shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be  
207 necessary to distinguish each license tag.

208 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
209 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
210 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Applicants for the  
211 distinctive license tag shall present proof of their certification  
212 as an emergency medical technician to the county tax collector.

213 The application and the additional fee imposed under subsection  
214 (3) of this section, less Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by  
215 the tax collector, shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission  
216 within seven (7) days of the date the application is made. The  
217 portion of the additional fee retained by the tax collector shall  
218 be deposited into the county general fund.

219 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
220 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license  
221 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
222 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
223 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
224 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
225 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
226 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
227 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
228 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
229 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
230 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
231 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
232 collector.

233 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
234 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
235 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
236 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
237 such collections as follows:

238 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
239 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
240 section shall be deposited into the Mississippi Trauma Care  
241 Systems Fund created under Section 41-59-75.

242 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
243 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
244 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
245 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

246           (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
247 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
248 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
249 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
250 reconstruction of highways.

251           (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
252 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
253 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
254 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
255 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
256 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
257 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
258 tag.

259           (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
260 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
261 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
262 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
263 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
264 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
265 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
266 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
267 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
268 distinctive license tags issued under this section.



269       SECTION 5. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
270 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge  
271 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
272 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup  
273 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
274 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (4) of this  
275 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor  
276 vehicle registered in his name, which license tag may depict the  
277 silhouettes of a dog and a cat within a heart, and shall be  
278 produced in such color and design as the State Tax Commission may  
279 prescribe. The words "I Care for Animals" shall be centered at  
280 the bottom of the license tag, with a silhouette on each side.  
281 The State Tax Commission shall prescribe such letters or numbers,  
282 or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

283       (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
284 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
285 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
286 additional fee imposed under subsection (4) of this section, less  
287 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
288 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
289 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
290 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
291 general fund.

292       (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
293 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license  
294 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
295 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
296 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
297 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
298 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
299 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
300 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
301 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of

302 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
303 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
304 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
305 collector.

306 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
307 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
308 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
309 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
310 such collections as follows:

311 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
312 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
313 section shall be deposited into the special fund created in  
314 Section 6 of this act.

315 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
316 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
317 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
318 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

319 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
320 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
321 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
322 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
323 reconstruction of highways.

324 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
325 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
326 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
327 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
328 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) month  
329 and year license decals for each distinctive license tag issued  
330 under this section, which will expire the same month and year as  
331 the license tag.

332 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
333 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
334 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by

335 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
336 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
337 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
338 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
339 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
340 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
341 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

342 SECTION 6. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a  
343 special fund to be known and designated as the "Animal Care Fund."  
344 There shall be deposited in the fund (a) the additional fees  
345 collected from the issuance of distinctive license tags under  
346 Section 5 of this act, (b) any gifts, grants, donations or  
347 matching money from federal, state or local governmental bodies  
348 and private persons, associations, groups or corporations making  
349 contributions to the fund; and (c) such other monies as the  
350 Legislature may appropriate or authorize to be deposited therein.

351 (2) The special fund created under subsection (1) of this  
352 section shall be administered by the Mississippi Board of Animal  
353 Health. Monies in the special fund shall be allocated and  
354 distributed by the Mississippi Board of Animal Health to and among  
355 the boards of supervisors of each of the counties and the  
356 governing authorities of municipalities in the state. Monies  
357 allocated, distributed and received by the boards of supervisors  
358 and governing authorities (a) may be expended for the operation  
359 and support of county or municipal agencies, boards or departments  
360 that provide food, shelter and care, and/or spaying and neutering,  
361 of lost, abandoned or unwanted pets; (b) may be expended for the  
362 creation, development or expansion of such agencies, boards or  
363 departments; or (c) may be donated by the boards of supervisors  
364 and governing authorities to nonprofit groups, organizations and  
365 associations that operate similar programs. However, priority for  
366 expenditure of such monies shall be given to spaying and neutering  
367 programs. None of such monies may be expended for euthanasia.

368           (3) The Mississippi Board of Animal Health shall adopt rules  
369 and regulations governing the proper administration of the Animal  
370 Care Fund, and establishing guidelines and criteria for the  
371 distribution and allocation of monies in the fund, including  
372 qualifications for those groups, organizations and associations to  
373 which boards of supervisors and governing authorities may make  
374 donations.

375           SECTION 7. Section 69-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
376 amended as follows:

377           69-15-9. The Board of Animal Health shall have plenary power  
378 to deal with all contagious and infectious diseases of animals as  
379 in the opinion of the board may be prevented, controlled or  
380 eradicated, and with full power to make, promulgate and enforce  
381 such rules and regulations as in the judgment of the board may be  
382 necessary to control, eradicate and prevent the introduction and  
383 spread of anthrax, tuberculosis, hog cholera, Texas and splenic  
384 fever and the fever-carrying tick (*margaropus annulatus*), cattle  
385 brucellosis, anaplasmosis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis,  
386 muscosal disease, cattle viral diarrhea, cattle scabies, sheep  
387 scabies, hog cholera, swine erysipelas, swine brucellosis, equine  
388 encephalomyelitis, rabies, vesicular diseases, salmonella group,  
389 newcastle disease, infectious laryngotracheitis,  
390 ornithosis-psittacosis, mycoplasma group and any suspected new  
391 and/or foreign diseases of livestock and poultry and all other  
392 diseases of animals in this state, and the board is hereby vested  
393 with full authority to establish and maintain quarantine lines and  
394 to quarantine by county, supervisors district, parcel of land or  
395 herd. The State Veterinarian shall appoint as many inspectors and  
396 range riders as may be deemed necessary, and the funds at his  
397 disposal will permit, and shall delegate authority to said  
398 inspectors and range riders, to enter premises to inspect and  
399 disinfect livestock and premises, and enforce quarantine including  
400 counties, farms, pens, stables and other premises.

401 No officer or agent of the State Veterinarian may enter the  
402 actual enclosures of any person except (1) with the consent of the  
403 person lawfully in possession thereof or (2) in the absence of  
404 such consent, with a proper writ obtained as in other cases of  
405 searches and seizures under constitutional law. When such  
406 officers and agents are lawfully on the premises, either by  
407 permission or writ, they shall be authorized to inspect the  
408 premises and the livestock and animals found thereon by entering  
409 the enclosures and buildings and they are authorized to check  
410 livestock and poultry found therein for any contagious diseases  
411 and take proper action to control or eradicate any such diseases  
412 that may be found. While such officers and agents are performing  
413 their duties hereunder, they shall not be personally liable except  
414 for gross negligence. The refusal without lawful reason of any  
415 person to give the consent aforesaid shall be deemed a misdemeanor  
416 and shall be punishable as for violations of Article 5 of this  
417 chapter as provided for in Section 69-15-115.

418 The Board of Animal Health shall administer the special fund  
419 created in Section 6 of House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_, 2000 Regular Session.

420 SECTION 8. (1) Owners of motor vehicles upon complying with  
421 the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of  
422 motor vehicles, and upon payment of the road and bridge privilege  
423 taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law  
424 for private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other  
425 noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional  
426 annual fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00), shall be  
427 issued a special license tag which displays an emblem designed by  
428 the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

429 (2) The Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
430 shall design an emblem which shall be displayed on the special  
431 license tag. The emblem shall be affixed during the production of  
432 the license tag.

433 (3) Application for the special license tags shall be made

434 to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax  
435 Commission. The application and the additional fee, less Two  
436 Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
437 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
438 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
439 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
440 general fund.

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

444 (5) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
445 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
446 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
447 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
448 such collections as follows:

449 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
450 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
451 section shall be deposited into the special fund created in  
452 Section 9 of this act.

453 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
454 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
455 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
456 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

457 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
458 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
459 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
460 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
461 reconstruction of highways.

462 (6) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
463 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
464 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
465 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
466 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) month

467 and year license decals for each distinctive license tag issued  
468 under this section, which will expire the same month and year as  
469 the license tag.

470 (7) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
471 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
472 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
473 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
474 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
475 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
476 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
477 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
478 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
479 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

480 SECTION 9. There is created in the State Treasury a special  
481 fund to be designated as the "Natural Resources Conservation  
482 Education Fund." The fund shall consist of such monies as are  
483 required to be deposited therein under Section 8 of this act; any  
484 gifts, grants or other contributions from any federal, state or  
485 local government or any person, firm or corporation; and such  
486 other monies as the Legislature may appropriate or authorize to be  
487 deposited into the fund. Monies in the fund may be used upon  
488 appropriation by the Legislature, by the Mississippi Soil and  
489 Water Conservation Commission to develop, produce and distribute  
490 materials used to educate individuals, groups or both, as to the  
491 natural resources of the State of Mississippi and the conservation  
492 of such resources.

493 SECTION 10. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
494 resident of this state and who is a member of Civitan  
495 International, upon payment of the road and bridge privilege  
496 taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law  
497 for private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other  
498 noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional  
499 fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this section,

500 shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor vehicle  
501 registered in his name identifying such person as a member of  
502 Civitan International. The distinctive license tags so issued  
503 shall be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission,  
504 with the advice of Civitan International, may prescribe, and shall  
505 consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary  
506 to distinguish each license tag.

507 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
508 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
509 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
510 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
511 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
512 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
513 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
514 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
515 general fund. The portion of the additional fee remitted to the  
516 State Tax Commission shall be deposited into the State Treasury on  
517 the day it is received and shall be deposited by the State  
518 Treasurer into the State General Fund.

519 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
520 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license  
521 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
522 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
523 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
524 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
525 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
526 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
527 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
528 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
529 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
530 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
531 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
532 collector.



533           (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
534 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
535 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
536 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
537 such collections as follows:

538           (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
539 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
540 section shall be distributed to the Mississippi Chapter of Civitan  
541 International. If there is no Mississippi Chapter of Civitan  
542 International, then such additional fees shall be deposited into  
543 the State General Fund.

544           (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
545 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
546 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
547 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

548           (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
549 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
550 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
551 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
552 reconstruction of highways.

553           (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
554 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
555 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
556 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
557 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
558 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
559 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
560 tag.

561           (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
562 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
563 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
564 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
565 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving

566 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
567 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
568 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
569 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
570 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

571       SECTION 11. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
572 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge  
573 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
574 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup  
575 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
576 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this  
577 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor  
578 vehicle registered in his name, which license tag shall display a  
579 wild animal native to the State of Mississippi and the words  
580 "Wildlife Rehabilitation." The native Mississippi wild animal  
581 emblem shall be chosen by the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature  
582 Preservation Society, Inc. (WRANPS), and the words "Wildlife  
583 Rehabilitation" shall be affixed during the production of the  
584 license tag. The State Tax Commission shall prescribe such  
585 letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish  
586 each license tag.

587       (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
588 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
589 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
590 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
591 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
592 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
593 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
594 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
595 general fund.

596       (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
597 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license  
598 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount

599 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
600 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
601 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
602 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
603 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
604 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
605 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
606 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
607 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
608 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
609 collector.

610 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
611 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
612 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
613 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
614 such collections as follows:

615 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
616 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
617 section shall be deposited into a special fund that is created in  
618 the State Treasury to the credit of all Mississippi wildlife  
619 rehabilitation organizations collectively that hold current state  
620 and federal licenses. The funds shall be made available at the  
621 beginning of each calendar year to each wildlife rehabilitation  
622 organization on a pro rata basis in accordance with the numbers of  
623 native wild animals each organization has rehabilitated for the  
624 past year. These numbers shall be based on annual reports  
625 currently submitted to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
626 Fisheries and Parks, and the United States Fish and Wildlife  
627 Service. It shall be the responsibility of the WRANPS to submit a  
628 final tally of numbers for each licensed wildlife organization to  
629 the State Tax Commission before the commission's final  
630 disbursement of funds. WRANPS shall further be responsible for  
631 sending a copy of this tally to each licensed wildlife

632 rehabilitation organization.

633           (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
634 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
635 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
636 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

637           (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
638 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
639 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
640 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
641 reconstruction of highways.

642           (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
643 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
644 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
645 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
646 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
647 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
648 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
649 tag.

650           (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
651 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
652 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
653 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
654 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
655 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
656 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
657 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
658 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
659 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

660           SECTION 12. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
661 resident of this state and who is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha  
662 sorority or Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, upon payment of the road  
663 and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees  
664 as prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup

665 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
666 an additional fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00), shall  
667 be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor vehicle  
668 registered in his name identifying such person as a member or  
669 supporter of such organization. The distinctive license tags so  
670 issued shall display the Greek letter of the organization and  
671 shall be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission may  
672 prescribe, and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both,  
673 as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

674 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
675 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
676 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
677 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
678 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
679 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
680 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
681 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
682 general fund.

683 (3) The distinctive license tag shall be issued for a  
684 one-year period. The additional annual fee shall be due and  
685 payable at the time of renewal registration.

686 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
687 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
688 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
689 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
690 such collections as follows:

691 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
692 collected on the distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
693 section shall be distributed to the Coleman, Alexander, Possner  
694 Foundation.

695 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
696 on the distinctive license tags shall be deposited into the  
697 Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn Center Fund created

698 pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

699 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
700 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
701 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
702 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
703 reconstruction of highways.

704 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
705 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
706 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
707 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
708 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) month  
709 and year license decals for each distinctive license tag issued  
710 under this section, which will expire the same month and year as  
711 the license tag.

712 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
713 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
714 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
715 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
716 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
717 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
718 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
719 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
720 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
721 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

722 SECTION 13. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
723 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge  
724 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
725 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup  
726 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
727 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this  
728 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor  
729 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a  
730 supporter of the Mississippi Sierra Club. The distinctive license

731 tags so issued shall be of such color and design as the State Tax  
732 Commission, with the advice of the Mississippi Sierra Club, may  
733 prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both,  
734 as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

735 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
736 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
737 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
738 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
739 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
740 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
741 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
742 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
743 general fund.

744 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
745 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license  
746 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
747 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
748 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
749 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
750 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
751 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
752 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
753 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
754 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
755 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
756 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
757 collector.

758 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
759 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
760 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
761 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
762 such collections as follows:

763 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee

764 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
765 section shall be distributed to the Mississippi Sierra Club.

766 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
767 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
768 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
769 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

770 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
771 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
772 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
773 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
774 reconstruction of highways.

775 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
776 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
777 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
778 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
779 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
780 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
781 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
782 tag.

783 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
784 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
785 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
786 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
787 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
788 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
789 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
790 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
791 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular  
792 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

793 SECTION 14. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
794 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge  
795 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
796 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup



797 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
798 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this  
799 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor  
800 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a  
801 supporter of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. The distinctive license tags  
802 so issued shall be of such color and design as the State Tax  
803 Commission, with the advice of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., may  
804 prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both,  
805 as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

806 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
807 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
808 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
809 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
810 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
811 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
812 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
813 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
814 general fund.

815 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
816 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license  
817 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
818 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
819 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
820 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
821 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
822 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
823 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
824 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
825 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
826 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
827 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
828 collector.

829 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the

830 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
831 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected  
832 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute  
833 such collections as follows:

834 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
835 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
836 section shall be distributed to Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

837 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
838 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
839 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
840 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

841 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
842 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
843 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
844 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
845 reconstruction of highways.

846 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
847 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
848 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
849 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
850 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
851 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
852 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
853 tag.

854 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
855 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
856 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
857 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
858 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
859 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
860 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
861 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
862 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular

863 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

864 SECTION 15. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
865 and after the date House Bill No. 862, 2000 Regular Session  
866 becomes effective.