

By: Stringer

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 571

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, 2000.