

By: Eads

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 589

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 27-19-69, 27-19-71, 27-19-141,  
2 27-51-27 AND 27-51-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT A  
3 PERSON SHALL RECEIVE A CASH REFUND INSTEAD OF A CREDIT FOR MOTOR  
4 VEHICLE PRIVILEGE AND AD VALOREM TAXES PAID WHEN HIS VEHICLE IS  
5 DESTROYED, IS NO LONGER USED IN MISSISSIPPI OR IS SOLD OR  
6 TRANSFERRED DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 27-19-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 27-19-69. If a carrier of property with a gross vehicle  
11 weight of sixteen thousand (16,000) pounds or greater on which the  
12 privilege tax prescribed by this article has been paid shall be  
13 totally destroyed by fire, tornado, flood, collision, accident or  
14 acts of Providence, then the person or operator who has paid the  
15 privilege tax or the owner of the vehicle, in the event of a sale  
16 thereof after the payment of such taxes, shall be entitled to a  
17 cash refund for the \* \* \* remaining unexpired portion of the  
18 privilege tax on the vehicle destroyed. \* \* \* In order to obtain  
19 the cash refund, such person claiming same must present the  
20 damaged license tag and decals to the tax collector of the county  
21 of his residence or the commission or must present proof that such  
22 tag and decals have been destroyed, and must prove to the  
23 satisfaction of the tax collector or commission that the vehicle

24 for which the tag was issued has been totally destroyed, as above  
25 set forth. \* \* \*

26 When a cash refund is made under the provisions of this  
27 section, the certificate of registration and payment of privilege  
28 taxes on the destroyed vehicle shall be cancelled by the  
29 commission. \* \* \*

30 SECTION 2. Section 27-19-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
31 amended as follows:

32 27-19-71. If any vehicle on which the privilege tax has been  
33 paid, either as a common or contract carrier of property, a  
34 private commercial carrier of property, a private carrier of  
35 property, a dray, a common and contract carrier of passengers, or  
36 a passenger coach, is removed from the State of Mississippi by the  
37 operator thereof, or the use thereof in Mississippi is  
38 discontinued entirely by such operator or owner for any reason,  
39 and such vehicle is replaced by another and different vehicle,  
40 then the person or operator who has paid such taxes, or the owner  
41 of such vehicle in the event of the sale thereof after the payment  
42 of such tax, shall be entitled to a cash refund for the remaining  
43 unexpired portion of the privilege tax on the vehicle, the use of  
44 which has been discontinued in Mississippi.

45 In order to obtain the cash refund, the owner or operator  
46 claiming same must present an affidavit to the commission or tax  
47 collector of the county of his residence, setting forth that the  
48 use of the vehicle upon which the original tax was paid has been  
49 entirely discontinued in Mississippi by such owner or operator and  
50 giving the reasons for such discontinuance, and full details with  
51 reference thereto, and no cash refund shall be made unless the tax  
52 collector or commission is absolutely satisfied that the \* \* \*  
53 vehicle is no longer to be used in Mississippi by such owner or  
54 operator. When a cash refund is requested under this section,

55 such owner or operator must surrender the license tag and decals  
56 originally issued, to the tax collector of the county of his  
57 residence, or the commission, and the commission shall cancel the  
58 certificate of registration and payment of the privilege tax on  
59 the original vehicle. \* \* \*

60 SECTION 3. Section 27-19-141, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
61 amended as follows:

62 27-19-141. If any person, other than a dealer or  
63 agent, \* \* \* sells, assigns or transfers any vehicle to another  
64 person, the person acquiring such vehicle shall register the  
65 vehicle with the county tax collector of his residence or the  
66 State Tax Commission within seven (7) working days after such  
67 sale, assignment or transfer and pay the annual privilege license  
68 taxes. The seller or transferor shall remove the license plate  
69 from the vehicle and retain same. Such license plate must be  
70 surrendered to the issuing authority with the corresponding tax  
71 receipt if required, and the seller or transferor shall be  
72 entitled to a cash refund. \* \* \* Such license plates surrendered  
73 to the tax collector shall be retained by him, and in no event  
74 shall such license plate be attached to any motor vehicle after  
75 being surrendered to the tax collector, nor shall any license  
76 plate be transferred from one (1) motor vehicle to any other motor  
77 vehicle. \* \* \*

78 SECTION 4. Section 27-51-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
79 amended as follows:

80 27-51-27. If any motor vehicle on which the ad valorem taxes  
81 prescribed in this chapter have been paid is totally destroyed by  
82 fire, tornado, flood, collision, accident or acts of Providence,

83 then the owner of such motor vehicle, upon filing a petition and  
84 submission of sufficient proof, shall be entitled to a cash refund  
85 for the amount of the ad valorem taxes on the proportional part of  
86 the taxable year remaining, less ad valorem taxes accruing on the  
87 salvage price, if any \* \* \*. In order to obtain the cash refund,  
88 such person must submit proof supported by affidavit of three (3)  
89 reputable citizens that such motor vehicle has been totally  
90 destroyed and a statement must be made as to the estimated amount  
91 of salvage value remaining. The application for this credit and  
92 the three (3) supporting affidavits must be notarized by an  
93 officer who has legal authority to notarize such instruments.

94 Any person who makes or swears to a false statement or makes  
95 or swears to a statement of facts without personal knowledge of  
96 such facts, in any connection with an adjustment claim as referred  
97 to above, shall be guilty of perjury and upon conviction shall be  
98 punished as now provided by law. The same procedure as outlined  
99 above shall apply to municipalities and municipal separate school  
100 districts in proper cases, if the subject motor vehicle has been  
101 totally destroyed as outlined above.

102 SECTION 5. Section 27-51-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
103 amended as follows:[JWB1]

104 27-51-41. (1) The exemptions from the provisions of this  
105 chapter shall be confined to those persons or property exempted by  
106 this chapter or by the provisions of the Constitution of the  
107 United States or the State of Mississippi. No exemption as now  
108 provided by any other statute shall be valid as against the tax  
109 levied by this chapter. Any subsequent exemption from the tax  
110 levied hereunder shall be provided by amendment to this section

111 which shall be inserted in the bill at length.

112 (2) The following shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation:

113 (a) All motor vehicles, as defined in this chapter, and  
114 including motor-propelled farm implements and vehicles, while in  
115 the hands of bona fide dealers as merchandise and which are not  
116 being operated upon the highways of this state, shall be exempt  
117 from all ad valorem taxes.

118 (b) All motor vehicles belonging to the federal  
119 government or the State of Mississippi or any agencies or  
120 instrumentalities thereof shall be exempt from all ad valorem  
121 taxes.

122 (c) All motor vehicles owned by any school district in  
123 the state shall be exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

124 (d) All motor vehicles owned by any fire protection  
125 district incorporated in accordance with Sections 19-5-151 through  
126 19-5-207 or by any fire protection grading district incorporated  
127 in accordance with Sections 19-5-215 through 19-5-243 shall be  
128 exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

129 (e) All motor vehicles owned by units of the  
130 Mississippi National Guard shall be exempt from all ad valorem  
131 taxes.

132 (f) All motor vehicles which are exempted from highway  
133 privilege taxes under Section 27-19-1 et seq. shall be exempt from  
134 ad valorem taxes.

135 (g) All motor vehicles operated in this state as common  
136 and contract carriers of property, private commercial carriers of  
137 property, private carriers of property and buses, all of which  
138 have a gross weight in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds,

139 shall be exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

140           (h) Antique automobiles as defined in Section 27-19-47  
141 shall be exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

142           (i) Street rods as defined in Section 27-19-56.6 shall  
143 be exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

144           (j) Motor vehicles owned by disabled American veterans,  
145 or by spouses of deceased disabled American veterans, in  
146 accordance with Section 27-19-53, shall be exempt from all ad  
147 valorem taxes.

148           (k) One (1) motor vehicle owned by the unremarried  
149 surviving spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United  
150 States who, while on active duty, is killed or dies and one (1)  
151 motor vehicle owned by the unremarried surviving spouse of a  
152 member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United  
153 States or of the National Guard who, while on active duty for  
154 training, is killed or dies shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes.

155           (l) Motor vehicles owned by recipients of the  
156 Congressional Medal of Honor or by former prisoners of war, or by  
157 spouses of such deceased persons, in accordance with Section  
158 27-19-54, shall be exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

159           (m) Any religious society, ecclesiastical body or any  
160 congregation thereof shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation on  
161 one (1) private carrier of passengers, as defined in Section  
162 27-19-3, owned by it, which is used exclusively for such society  
163 and not for profit. All motor vehicles owned by any such  
164 religious society or any educational institution having a seating  
165 capacity greater than seven (7) passengers and used exclusively  
166 for transporting passengers for religious or educational purposes

167 and not for profit shall be exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

168           (n) All motor vehicles primarily used as rentals under  
169 rental agreements with a term of not more than thirty (30)  
170 continuous days each and under the control of persons who are  
171 engaged in the business of renting such motor vehicles and who are  
172 subject to the tax under Section 27-65-231 shall be exempt from  
173 all ad valorem taxes.

174           (o) Antique motorcycles as defined in Section  
175 27-19-47.1, shall be exempt from all ad valorem taxes.

176           (p) Motor vehicles owned by recipients of the Purple  
177 Heart as provided in Section 27-19-56.5.

178           (3) Any claim for tax exemption by authority of the  
179 above-mentioned code sections or by any other legal authority  
180 shall be set out in the application for the road and bridge  
181 privilege license, and the specific legal authority for such tax  
182 exemption claim shall be cited in said application, and such  
183 authority cited shall be shown by the tax collector on the tax  
184 receipt as his authority for not collecting such ad valorem taxes,  
185 and the tax collector shall carry forward such information in his  
186 tax collection reports.

187           (4) Any motor vehicle driven over the highways of this state  
188 to the extent that the owner of such motor vehicle is required to  
189 purchase a road and bridge privilege license in this state, yet  
190 the legal situs of such motor vehicle is located in another state,  
191 shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes authorized by this chapter.

192           (5) If a taxpayer shall sell, trade or otherwise dispose of  
193 a vehicle on which the ad valorem and road and bridge privilege  
194 taxes have been paid in any county in the state, he shall remove

195 the license plate from the vehicle. Such license plate must be  
196 surrendered to the issuing authority with the corresponding tax  
197 receipt, if required, and the seller or transferor shall be  
198 entitled to a cash refund for the amount of the ad valorem taxes  
199 on the proportioned part of the taxable year remaining. Such  
200 license plates surrendered to the tax collector shall be retained  
201 by him, and in no event shall such license plate be attached to  
202 any vehicle after being surrendered to the tax collector, nor  
203 shall any license plate be transferred from one (1) vehicle to any  
204 other vehicle.

205 (6) If the person owning a vehicle subject to taxation under  
206 the provisions of this chapter does not operate such vehicle on  
207 the highways of this state from the date of acquisition or, if  
208 previously registered, from the end of the anniversary month of  
209 the tag and decals to the date on which he makes application for a  
210 current license tag or decals, he shall pay such ad valorem tax  
211 for a period of twelve (12) months beginning with the first day of  
212 the month in which he applies for a current license tag or decals  
213 under Chapter 19, Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972. The owner  
214 shall submit an affidavit with an application attesting to the  
215 fact that the vehicle was not operated on the highways of this  
216 state from the date of acquisition or, if previously registered,  
217 from the end of the anniversary month of the tag and decals to the  
218 date on which he makes application for the current license tag or  
219 decals.

220 (7) Any person found violating any of the provisions of this  
221 section shall be arrested and tried, and if found guilty shall be  
222 fined in an amount double the total amount of taxes involved.



223           SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
224 and after July 1, 2000.