

By: Clarke

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 767

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 IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION FOR VOLUNTEER
4 SERVICE AND THE STATE HIGHWAY FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF
5 THE FEES COLLECTED FOR SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS SHALL BE
6 DISTRIBUTED TO THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE
7 AND THE STATE HIGHWAY FUND; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THAT
8 MUST BE SATISFIED BEFORE DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS OR PLATES
9 AUTHORIZED BY THIS ACT, OR FUTURE LEGISLATION, WILL BE PREPARED;
10 TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS TO CERTIFIED
11 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE
12 ADDITIONAL FEES COLLECTED FOR SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS SHALL
13 BE DEPOSITED TO THE CREDIT OF THE MISSISSIPPI TRAUMA CARE SYSTEMS
14 FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 43-55-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
15 CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED
16 PURPOSES.

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

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

20 27-19-56.15. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
21 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
22 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
23 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
24 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
25 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
26 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor
27 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a
28 supporter of the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service.

29 The distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and
30 design as the State Tax Commission, with the advice of the
31 Mississippi Commission on Volunteer Service, may prescribe and
32 shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be
33 necessary to distinguish each license tag.

34 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
35 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
36 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the
37 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
38 five percent (5%) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
39 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7)
40 days of the date the application is made. The portion of the
41 additional fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited
42 into the county general fund.

43 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
44 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license
45 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
46 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
47 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
48 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
49 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
50 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
51 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
52 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
53 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
54 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
55 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
56 collector.

57 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
58 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
59 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the

60 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
61 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
62 Treasurer shall distribute an amount equal to Seven Dollars
63 (\$7.00) of the additional fees collected for each such distinctive
64 license tag issued under this section to the State General Fund,
65 and the remainder of such additional fees collected shall be
66 distributed by the State Treasurer as follows:

67 (a) Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of each additional fee
68 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
69 section shall be deposited into the Mississippi Commission for
70 Volunteer Service Fund created under Section 43-55-29.

71 (b) The remainder of each such additional fee shall be
72 deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be expended
73 solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction
74 of highways.

75 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
76 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
77 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
78 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
79 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
80 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
81 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
82 tag.

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

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

93 SECTION 2. (1) For any distinctive license tag or plate
94 authorized by the Legislature from and after July 1, 2000,
95 including the distinctive license tag authorized in Sections 1 and
96 3 of this act, the requirements of this section must be satisfied
97 before the State Tax Commission prepares and issues any such
98 license tag or plate. The organization or other entity for which
99 the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate
100 must submit proof satisfactory to the State Tax Commission that at
101 least one hundred (100) such license tags or plates will be
102 purchased and must deposit with the commission an amount necessary
103 to purchase one hundred (100) such license tags or plates. The
104 organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized
105 the distinctive license tag or plate must satisfy the requirements
106 of this subsection (1) within two (2) years after the effective
107 date of the law authorizing the license tag or plate in order for
108 the license tag or plate to be prepared and issued.

109 (2) If the organization or other entity for which the
110 Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate
111 satisfies the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the
112 State Tax Commission shall prepare and issue the distinctive
113 license tag or plate. If the State Tax Commission prepares and
114 issues a distinctive license tag or plate for the organization or
115 other entity, the commission shall review the number of such

116 license tags or plates issued during the period for the license
117 tag or plate series. If the number of distinctive license tags or
118 plates falls below one hundred (100) in the last year of the
119 series, the license tag or plate shall be discontinued at the end
120 of the period for the series.

121 (3) If a distinctive license tag or plate is discontinued
122 under subsection (2) of this section, the organization or other
123 entity for which the license tag or plate was discontinued may
124 prepare a distinctive license tag or plate decal. The distinctive
125 license tag or plate decal shall be of such size, color and design
126 as may be agreed upon by the organization or other entity and the
127 State Tax Commission. However, the State Tax Commission shall
128 have final approval of the size, color and design of the decal.
129 The distinctive license tag or plate decals shall be prepared and
130 sold by the organization or other entity, and the proceeds derived
131 from the sale of such decals shall be retained by the organization
132 or other entity for use deemed appropriate by the organization or
133 other entity.

134 (4) This section shall not apply to distinctive license tags
135 or plates authorized for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and
136 former Governors and Lieutenant Governors in Section 27-19-45,
137 Mississippi Code of 1972, or to distinctive license tags and
138 plates authorized in Sections 27-19-46, 27-19-51, 27-19-53,
139 27-19-54, 27-19-56.3, 27-19-56.5, 27-19-56.12, 27-19-56.13 or
140 27-19-169, Mississippi Code of 1972.

141 SECTION 3. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is an
142 emergency medical technician certified under Chapter 59 of Title
143 41, Mississippi Code of 1972, upon payment of the road and bridge

144 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
145 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
146 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
147 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
148 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor
149 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as an
150 emergency medical technician. The distinctive license tags so
151 issued shall be of such color and design as the State Tax
152 Commission, with the advice of the Mississippi Department of
153 Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services, may prescribe and
154 shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be
155 necessary to distinguish each license tag.

156 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
157 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
158 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Applicants for the
159 distinctive license tag shall present proof of their certification
160 as an emergency medical technician to the county tax collector.
161 The application and the additional fee imposed under subsection
162 (3) of this section, less five percent (5%) thereof to be retained
163 by the tax collector, shall be remitted to the State Tax
164 Commission within seven (7) days of the date the application is
165 made. The portion of the additional fee retained by the tax
166 collector shall be deposited into the county general fund.

167 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
168 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license
169 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
170 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
171 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all

172 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
173 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
174 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
175 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
176 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
177 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
178 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
179 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
180 collector.

181 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
182 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
183 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
184 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
185 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
186 Treasurer shall distribute an amount equal to Seven Dollars
187 (\$7.00) of the additional fees collected for each such distinctive
188 license tag issued under this section to the State General Fund,
189 and the remainder of such additional fees collected shall be
190 deposited to the credit of the Mississippi Trauma Care Systems
191 Fund created under Section 41-59-75.

192 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
193 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
194 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
195 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
196 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
197 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
198 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
199 tag.

200 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
201 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
202 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
203 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
204 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
205 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
206 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
207 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
208 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
209 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

210 SECTION 4. Section 43-55-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
211 amended as follows:

212 43-55-29. (1) There is established in the State Treasury a
213 fund known as the "Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service
214 Fund" (hereinafter referred to as "fund"). The fund shall consist
215 of monies obtained from contributions made pursuant to Section
216 27-7-90 and from the additional fees collected under Section
217 27-19-56.15. Monies in the fund, upon appropriation by the
218 Legislature, may be expended by the Mississippi Commission for
219 Volunteer Service, established in Section 43-55-3, to carry out
220 the purposes of Sections 43-55-1 through 43-55-27. Unexpended
221 amounts remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall
222 not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on
223 amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

224 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
225 and after July 1, 2000.