

By: Hewes

To: Finance

## SENATE BILL NO. 2768

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR  
2 VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS DISPLAYING AN EMBLEM DESIGNED BY THE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES; TO PROVIDE THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT  
4 OF THE FEES PAID FOR SUCH TAGS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE COASTAL  
5 PRESERVE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE SEAFOOD FUND; TO AMEND SECTION  
6 49-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ESTABLISH THE COASTAL  
7 PRESERVE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE SEAFOOD FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT FUNDS IN  
8 SUCH ACCOUNT SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR THE MANAGEMENT, IMPROVEMENT AND  
9 ACQUISITION OF COASTAL PRESERVES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. [WAN1](1) Owners of motor vehicles upon  
12 complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and  
13 licensing of motor vehicles, and upon payment of the road and  
14 bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
15 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup  
16 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
17 an additional annual fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00),  
18 shall be issued a special license tag which displays an emblem  
19 designed by the Department of Marine Resources.

20 (2) The Department of Marine Resources shall design emblems  
21 which shall be displayed on the special license tag. The emblem  
22 shall be affixed during the production of the license tag.

23 (3) Application for the special license tags shall be made  
24 to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax  
25 Commission. The application and the additional fee, less five  
26 percent (5%) thereof to be retained by the tax collector, shall be  
27 remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7) days of the  
28 date the application is made. The portion of the additional fee  
29 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county

30 general fund.

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

34 (5) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
35 State Treasury on the day received. At the end of each month, the  
36 State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected under  
37 this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute such  
38 collections as follows:

39 (a) Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of each additional fee  
40 collected on special license tags issued pursuant to this section  
41 shall be deposited into the Coastal Preserve Account in the  
42 Seafood Fund created pursuant to Section 49-15-17.

43 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
44 on special license tags shall be deposited into the Mississippi  
45 Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn Center Fund created pursuant to  
46 Section 7-9-70.

47 (c) The remainder of each such additional fee shall be  
48 deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be expended  
49 solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction  
50 of highways.

51 SECTION 2. Section 49-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
52 amended as follows:[WAN2]

53 49-15-17. (1) (a) All monies received or obtained by the  
54 commission under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid over  
55 by the commission to the State Treasurer and shall be deposited  
56 into the fund known as the "Seafood Fund." All revenues collected  
57 through the department, to include, but not limited to, commercial  
58 saltwater licenses and taxes, permits, fines and penalties, and  
59 confiscated catches, shall be deposited into the department  
60 operating account (Seafood Fund) and expended for the operation of  
61 the department, as authorized by the Legislature.

62 (b) There is established a special account to be known  
63 as the "Artificial Reef Program Account" within the seafood fund.

64 Any funds received from any public or private source for the  
65 purpose of promoting, constructing, monitoring or maintaining  
66 artificial reefs in the marine waters of the state or in federal

67 waters adjacent to the marine waters of the state shall be  
68 credited to the account. Any unexpended funds remaining in the  
69 account at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the  
70 seafood fund, but shall remain in the account. The department may  
71 expend any funds in the account, subject to appropriation by the  
72 Legislature, to accomplish the purpose of the account.

73 (c) There is established a special account to be known  
74 as the "Coastal Preserve Account" within the seafood fund. Any  
75 funds received from any public or private source for the purpose  
76 of management, improvement and acquisition of coastal preserves in  
77 the state and money required to be deposited pursuant to Section 1  
78 of Senate Bill No. 2768, 2000 Regular Session shall be credited to  
79 the account. Any unexpended funds remaining in the account at the  
80 end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the seafood fund, but  
81 shall remain in the account. The department may expend any funds  
82 in the account, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, for  
83 the management, improvement and acquisition of coastal preserves.

84 (2) The fund shall be treated as a special trust fund and  
85 interest earned on the principal shall be credited to the fund.

86 (3) The secretary of the commission shall keep accurate  
87 reports of monies handled as a part of the permanent records of  
88 the commission, and the State Treasurer shall furnish the  
89 secretary of the commission such forms as may be needed, and the  
90 secretary shall account for such forms in his reports to the  
91 treasurer.

92 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
93 and after July 1, 2000.