

By: Furniss, White (29th), King, Harvey,
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To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2778

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.12, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO ALLOW ALL HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS TO PURCHASE
3 DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES FOR EACH VEHICLE
4 REGISTERED IN HIS NAME; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE
5 DISTINCTIVE LICENSE PLATE SHALL BE COLLECTED UPON THE INITIAL
6 ISSUANCE AND SUBSEQUENT ISSUANCE OF A NEW TAG DESIGN SERIES; TO
7 REVISE THE TYPES OF DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR EVIDENCE
8 OF VETERAN SERVICE BY THE APPLICANT FOR THE DISTINCTIVE PLATE; AND
9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 27-19-56.12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:[JMR1]

13 27-19-56.12. In recognition of the patriotic service
14 rendered by Mississippians who are honorably discharged veterans
15 who served in the United States Armed Forces * * *, any such
16 person is privileged to obtain * * * distinctive motor vehicle
17 license plates or tags for each vehicle registered in his name
18 identifying their status as a veteran. The State Tax Commission,
19 with concurrence by the State Veterans Affairs Board, shall
20 develop * * * decals to be affixed to the license tag indicating
21 branch and period of military service * * *. The distinctive
22 plates or tags shall be of a color and design designated by the
23 Tax Commission with concurrence by the State Veterans Affairs
24 Board.

25 The distinctive license plates shall be prepared by the Tax
26 Commission and shall be issued through the tax collectors of the
27 counties in the same manner as are other motor vehicle license
28 plates or tags. An additional tag fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)
29 shall be collected by the tax collector for such license plates or

30 tags upon the initial issuance and subsequent issuance of a new
31 tag design series, and shall be forwarded to the Tax Commission
32 which shall deposit such fee to the credit of a fund to be
33 administered by the board overseeing the veterans nursing homes in
34 this state for the benefit of indigent veterans who are residents
35 of such nursing homes.

36 An applicant for such distinctive plates shall present to the
37 issuing official written evidence of the veteran's service. Such
38 evidence shall include a copy of the applicant's DD-214 form, a
39 Report of Separation From Military Service, a military discharge
40 document, or a written certification of military service from the
41 State Veterans Affairs Board. The distinctive license plates or
42 tags so issued shall be used only upon a personally or jointly
43 owned private passenger vehicle (to include station wagons,
44 recreational motor vehicles and pickup trucks) registered in the
45 name, or jointly in the name, of the person making application
46 therefor, and when issued to such person shall be used upon the
47 vehicle for which issued in lieu of the standard license plate or
48 license tag normally issued for such vehicle.

49 The distinctive license plates shall not be transferable
50 between motor vehicle owners; and in the event the owner of a
51 vehicle bearing a distinctive plate shall sell, trade, exchange or
52 otherwise dispose of the vehicle, such plate shall be retained by
53 such owner and returned to the tax collector.

54 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2000.