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To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2976
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 27-19-56.15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE
3 OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS IN SUPPORT OF KEEP MISSISSIPPI
4 BEAUTIFUL, INC.; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL FEES THAT SHALL
5 BE COLLECTED FOR THE LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADDITIONAL
6 FEES SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE STATEWIDE LITTER PREVENTION FUND
7 CREATED UNDER SECTION 65-1-167; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
10 27-19-56.15, Mississippi Code of 1972:

11 27-19-56.15. (1) Owners of motor vehicles who are residents
12 of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating
13 to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon payment
14 of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and
15 registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of
16 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,
17 and upon payment of an additional fee in the amount provided in
18 subsection (3) of this section, shall be issued a distinctive
19 license tag in recognition of their support for Keep Mississippi
20 Beautiful, Inc. The distinctive license tags so issued shall be
21 of such color and design as may be determined finally by the State
22 Tax Commission based upon three (3) recommendations presented to
23 the State Tax Commission by the Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Inc.
24 and ranked in order of preference by the Keep Mississippi
25 Beautiful, Inc.

26 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
27 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
28 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the

29 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, plus
30 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector as
31 a processing fee, shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission
32 within seven (7) days of the date the application is made. The
33 portion of the additional fee retained by the tax collector shall
34 be deposited into the county general fund. Distinctive license
35 tags issued under this section shall be issued within forty-five
36 (45) days after application is made.

37 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
38 after July 1, 2000, any person applying for a distinctive license
39 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
40 of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each distinctive license tag
41 applied for under this section which shall be in addition to all
42 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
43 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
44 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
45 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
46 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
47 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
48 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
49 license tag, or if the owner sells or transfers the vehicle he,
50 may surrender the license tag to the local county tax collector
51 and receive a certificate of credit toward the purchase of a tag
52 on another vehicle as otherwise provided by law. Distinctive
53 license tags issued under this section may be transferred by the
54 owner to any other vehicle owned by the person upon payment of the
55 regular taxes and fees for a license tag for that vehicle.

56 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
57 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
58 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
59 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of
60 distinctive license tags. The State Treasurer shall distribute an
61 amount equal to Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of the additional fees
62 collected for each such distinctive license tag issued under this
63 section to the statewide litter prevention fund created under
64 Section 65-1-167. Monies in the special fund, upon legislative
65 appropriation, may be expended or provided in Section 65-1-167.

66 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
67 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
68 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
69 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
70 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
71 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
72 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
73 tag.

74 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
75 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
76 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
77 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
78 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
79 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
80 deposit in the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
81 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
82 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
83 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

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