

By: Representative Moak

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 980

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION 27-19-56.32, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE  
3 TAGS FOR DULY ELECTED CONSTABLES; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE  
4 FEES COLLECTED FOR THOSE DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS WILL BE  
5 DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE STATE GENERAL FUND, THE MISSISSIPPI FIRE  
6 FIGHTER'S MEMORIAL BURN CENTER FUND AND THE STATE HIGHWAY FUND;  
7 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 27-19-56.32, Mississippi Code of 1972:

11 27-19-56.32. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a duly  
12 elected constable, upon payment of the road and bridge privilege  
13 taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law  
14 for private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other  
15 noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional  
16 fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this section,  
17 shall be issued a distinctive license tag for any motor vehicle  
18 registered in his name identifying the person as a constable. The  
19 distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and  
20 design as the State Tax Commission may prescribe and shall consist  
21 of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to  
22 distinguish each license tag.

23 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
24 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
25 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
26 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
27 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,  
28 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7)

29 days of the date the application is made. The portion of the  
30 additional fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited  
31 into the county general fund.

32 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
33 after July 1, 2001, any person applying for a distinctive license  
34 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
35 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
36 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
37 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
38 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established  
39 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
40 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
41 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
42 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
43 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
44 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
45 collector.

46 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the  
47 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,  
48 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the  
49 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the  
50 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State  
51 Treasurer shall distribute such collections as follows:

52 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
53 collected on distinctive license tags issued under this section  
54 shall be deposited into the State General Fund.

55 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
56 on distinctive license tags issued under this section shall be  
57 deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn Center  
58 Fund created under Section 7-9-70.

59 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
60 collected on distinctive license tags issued under this section  
61 shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be

62 expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
63 reconstruction of highways.

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

72 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
73 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
74 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
75 Section 27-19-37.

76 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
77 and after July 1, 2001.