SENATE BILL NO. 2712

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS IN SUPPORT OF KEEP MISSISSIPPI BEAUTIFUL, INC.; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL FEES THAT SHALL BE COLLECTED FOR THE LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADDITIONAL FEES SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE STATEWIDE LITTER PREVENTION FUND CREATED UNDER SECTION 65-1-167; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

(2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, plus Two Dollars ($2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector as a processing fee, shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission on
a monthly basis as prescribed by the Commission. The portion of
the additional fee retained by the tax collector shall be
deposited into the county general fund. Distinctive license tags
issued under this section shall be issued within forty-five (45)
days after application is made.

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

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

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

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

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