

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2712

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

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

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

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, plus
 27 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector as
 28 a processing fee, shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission on

29 a monthly basis as prescribed by the Commission. The portion of
30 the additional fee retained by the tax collector shall be
31 deposited into the county general fund. Distinctive license tags
32 issued under this section shall be issued within forty-five (45)
33 days after application is made.

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

53 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
54 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
55 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
56 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of
57 distinctive license tags. The State Treasurer shall distribute an
58 amount equal to Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of the additional fees
59 collected for each such distinctive license tag issued under this
60 section to the statewide litter prevention fund created under

61 Section 65-1-167. Monies in the special fund, upon legislative
62 appropriation, may be expended or provided in Section 65-1-167.

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

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

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