

By: Senator(s) Farris, Minor, Furniss

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2912

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR  
2 VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES  
3 ARMED FORCES; TO PROVIDE FOR A FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH TAGS;  
4 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is serving  
7 as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, upon  
8 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes  
9 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of  
10 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,  
11 and upon payment of an additional fee in the amount provided in  
12 subsection (3) of this section, shall be issued a distinctive  
13 license tag for each motor vehicle registered in his name  
14 identifying such person as an active duty member of the United  
15 States Armed Forces. The distinctive license tags so issued shall  
16 be of such color and design as designated by the State Tax  
17 Commission, shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as  
18 may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

19 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
20 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
21 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Applicants for such  
22 distinctive license tags shall present to the issuing official  
23 proof that they are serving as an active duty member of the United  
24 States Armed Forces. The application and the additional fee  
25 imposed under subsection (3) of this section shall be remitted to  
26 the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as prescribed by the  
27 commission.

28           (3) Any person applying for a distinctive license tag under  
29 this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount of Thirty  
30 Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag applied for  
31 under this section which shall be in addition to all other taxes  
32 and fees. The tag fee shall be collected by the tax collector and  
33 shall be forwarded to the State Tax Commission which shall deposit  
34 such fee to the credit of a fund to be administered by the board  
35 overseeing the veterans' nursing homes in this state for the  
36 benefit of indigent veterans who are residents of such nursing  
37 homes. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of time to  
38 run concurrent with the vehicle's established license tag year.  
39 The additional fee is due and payable at the time the original  
40 application is made for a distinctive license tag under this  
41 section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal  
42 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license  
43 tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license  
44 tag, or if the owner retires or resigns from or otherwise vacates  
45 service in the United States Armed Forces, he must surrender it to  
46 the local county tax collector.

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

55           (5) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
56 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
57 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
58 Section 27-19-37, Mississippi Code of 1972. The fee for a  
59 replacement distinctive license tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00).  
60 The tax collector receiving such application and affidavit shall

61 be entitled to retain and deposit into the county general fund  
62 five percent (5%) of the fee for such replacement license tag and  
63 the remainder shall be distributed in the same manner as funds  
64 from the sale of regular distinctive license tags issued under  
65 this section.

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