HOUSE BILL NO. 238

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 63-15-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PROOF OF MOTOR
3 VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE OR OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL
4 RESPONSIBILITY AS REQUIRED BY THIS CHAPTER BEFORE RECEIVING MOTOR
5 VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
8 63-15-8, Mississippi Code of 1972:
9 63-15-8. (1) Every owner of a motor vehicle in this state
10 shall furnish proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other
11 form of financial responsibility as required by this chapter
12 before such owner may receive a license tag for a motor vehicle or
13 renew a license tag. Proof of motor vehicle liability insurance
14 or other form of financial responsibility as required by this
15 chapter shall be made by signing a certificate on a form
16 prescribed by the Commissioner of Insurance stating that the motor
17 vehicle owner is insured or otherwise financially responsible for
18 at least the minimum requirements as provided by this chapter and
19 in any form as provided by this chapter. Such certificate shall
20 state in bold print that anyone who shall affirmatively sign such
21 certificate who is not insured or otherwise financially
22 responsible for at least the minimum requirements as provided by
23 this chapter shall be subject to a fine of Five Hundred Dollars
24 ($500.00) and imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year
25 or both such fine and imprisonment. Such certificate shall be
26 furnished to each motor vehicle owner by the tax collector of the
27 county where the motor vehicle is registered. The tax collector
28 shall mail such certificate with a motor vehicle tag renewal
notice that shall be mailed back to the tax collector before a tag may be renewed. The tax collectors shall also make such certificates available at the tax collectors' offices during regular business hours. The tax collector shall forward a copy of the certificate to the Department of Public Safety and shall keep the original in the tax collector's records.

(2) Any person who presents or causes to be presented to the department or to any court of this state false evidence of motor vehicle liability insurance or other form of financial responsibility as required by this chapter, upon conviction, shall be guilty of perjury and shall be fined Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) and shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year or both such fine and imprisonment. This fine and imprisonment shall be waived if the offender chooses to purchase, and provides proof of such purchase by the court date, motor vehicle liability insurance for a minimum of six (6) months' coverage in at least the minimum amounts required under paragraph (j) of Section 63-15-3. Any person convicted of filing false proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other form of financial responsibility as required by this chapter shall surrender to the department his driver's license, license plates and registration of the motor vehicle for which false proof was presented and the procedure for the suspension of licenses provided in Section 63-15-11 relating to accidents shall be followed. Such driver's license, license plates and registration shall be reinstated upon payment of any fines and reinstatement fees, serving of a sentence if applicable, upon presentation of proof of financial responsibility for a period of one (1) year or upon presentation of proof of purchase of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. The district attorney of the jurisdiction where any false evidence is filed shall prosecute any violations of this
section. Any person convicted under this section shall be
assessed with all costs of prosecution and all court costs.

(3) All insurance carriers are required to notify the
appropriate tax collector and sheriff and the department when
there is a lapse of the liability coverage that was purchased in
accordance with this section. Upon such notification, the sheriff
may confiscate the motor vehicle license tag, which tag may be
returned to the owner in the manner provided in this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2002.