

By: Representatives Fillingane, Lott, Wells-Smith To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 621

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 27-19-56.32, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE
3 OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES TO ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS
4 OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES; TO ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL
5 FEE FOR SUCH LICENSES; TO PROVIDE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE
6 ADDITIONAL FEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
9 27-19-56.32, Mississippi Code of 1972:

10 27-19-56.32. In recognition of the patriotic services
11 rendered the United States, Mississippi and the citizens thereof,
12 any resident of the state who is on active duty with the Armed
13 Forces of the United States, upon payment of the road and bridge
14 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
15 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
16 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
17 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
18 section, shall be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license plate
19 or tag identifying him as an active duty member of the United
20 States Armed Forces. The distinctive license tags so issued shall
21 be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission may
22 prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both,
23 as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

24 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
25 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
26 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Applicants for the
27 distinctive license tag shall present proof of their active duty
28 membership in the United States Armed Services to the county tax
29 collector. The application and the additional fee imposed under



30 subsection (3) of this section, less Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be
31 retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to the State Tax
32 Commission within seven (7) days of the date the application is
33 made. The portion of the additional fee retained by the tax
34 collector shall be deposited into the county general fund.

35 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
36 after July 1, 2002, any person applying for a distinctive license
37 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
38 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
39 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
40 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
41 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
42 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
43 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
44 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
45 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
46 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
47 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
48 collector.

49 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
50 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
51 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected
52 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute
53 such collections as follows:

54 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee
55 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
56 section shall be deposited into a special fund that is created in
57 the State Treasury. Monies in the fund may be expended by the
58 Mississippi State Veterans Affairs Board for the maintenance,
59 operation and administration of state veterans homes.

60 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
61 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall



62 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn
63 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

64 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee
65 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
66 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund
67 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or
68 reconstruction of highways.

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

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

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

