

By: Representative Zuber

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 817

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 27-19-56.32, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE  
3 LICENSE TAGS TO PROMOTE AUTISM AWARENESS; TO PRESCRIBE AN  
4 ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS;  
5 TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEES; AND FOR  
6 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. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
11 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws  
12 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon  
13 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes  
14 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of  
15 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,  
16 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount  
17 provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be entitled to a  
18 special license tag that demonstrates the applicant's support for  
19 autism awareness. The tags shall be of such color and design as  
20 the State Tax Commission shall prescribe subject to the approval  
21 of the Mississippi License Tag Commission; however each tag shall  
22 display the design of a girl and a boy holding hands with the name  
23 "Unlocking Autism," and shall consist of such letters or numbers,  
24 or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

25 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
26 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
27 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
28 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
29 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be



30 remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as  
31 prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee  
32 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county  
33 general fund.

34 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
35 after July 1, 2002, any person applying for a distinctive license  
36 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
37 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) 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, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
47 collector.

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

53 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
54 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
55 section shall be distributed to the national organization  
56 Unlocking Autism.

57 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
58 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
59 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
60 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

61 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
62 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this



63 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund  
64 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
65 reconstruction of highways.

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

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

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

