

By: Representatives Whittington, Eaton,
Pierce, Baker, Banks, Cameron, Chism,
Fleming, Gibbs, Howell, Huddleston, Hudson,
Livingston, Masterson, Middleton, Moore
(100th)

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 829

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 27-19-56.32, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE
3 OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS TO SUPPORTERS OF MISSISSIPPI
4 AGRICULTURE; TO PRESCRIBE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH DISTINCTIVE
5 LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH FEES; AND
6 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. Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident
11 of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating
12 to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon payment
13 of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and
14 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 of
17 Thirty Dollars (\$30.00), shall be privileged to obtain one
18 distinctive motor vehicle license plate or tag for each motor
19 vehicle registered in his name identifying him as a supporter of
20 Mississippi agriculture.

21 (2) The tags shall depict the image of a cotton boll, shall
22 be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission shall
23 prescribe, subject to the approval of the Mississippi License Tag
24 Commission, and shall consist of such letters or numbers or both
25 as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

26 (3) Application for the distinctive license tags shall be
27 made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State
28 Tax Commission. The application and the additional fee, less Two
29 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 (4) The distinctive license tag shall be issued for a
35 one-year period. The additional annual fee shall be due and
36 payable at the time of renewal registration.

37 (5) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
38 State Treasury on the day received. At the end of each month, the
39 State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected under
40 this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute such
41 collections as follows:

42 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee
43 collected on distinctive license tags issued under this section
44 shall be deposited into a special fund that is created in the
45 State Treasury to be known as the "Agriculture Distinctive License
46 Tag Fund." Monies in the fund may be expended, upon legislative
47 appropriation, by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture to
48 help defray the operating expenses of the department.

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

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

58 (6) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
59 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
60 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
61 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
62 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) month



63 and year license decals for each distinctive license tag issued
64 under this section, which will expire the same month and year as
65 the regular license tag.

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

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

