HOUSE BILL NO. 829

AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION 27-19-56.32, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS TO SUPPORTERS OF MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE; TO PRESCRIBE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH FEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

27-19-56.32. Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars ($30.00), shall be privileged to obtain one distinctive motor vehicle license plate or tag for each motor vehicle registered in his name identifying him as a supporter of Mississippi agriculture.

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

(3) Application for the distinctive license tags shall be made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the additional fee, less Two Dollars ($2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be...
remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as
prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee
retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
general fund.

(4) The distinctive license tag shall be issued for a
one-year period. The additional annual fee shall be due and
payable at the time of renewal registration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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