

By: Representative Guice

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1158

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 an interlocking puzzle strip with the name
23 "Autism Awareness," 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 statewide nonprofit
56 organization, "Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi"
57 (TEAAM).

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



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

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

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

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

