

By: Representatives Janus, Creel, Ketchings, Roberson, Zuber To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1527

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 27-19-56.32, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS TO
3 RECIPIENTS OF THE BRONZE STAR OR THE SILVER STAR; TO PRESCRIBE AN
4 ADDITIONAL FEE FOR SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR
5 THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH FEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 27-19-56.32. In recognition of the patriotic services
10 rendered by Mississippians who are recipients of the Bronze Star
11 or the Silver Star, any such person, upon complying with the motor
12 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor
13 vehicles, and upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes,
14 ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law for
15 private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other
16 noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional
17 annual fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00), shall be
18 privileged to obtain one distinctive motor vehicle license plate
19 or tag for each motor vehicle registered in his name identifying
20 him as a recipient of the Bronze Star or the Silver Star.

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



29 shall present to the issuing official written proof that the
30 applicant is a recipient of the Bronze Star or Silver Star. The
31 application and the additional fee, less Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be
32 retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to the State Tax
33 Commission on a monthly basis as prescribed by the commission.
34 The portion of the additional fee retained by the tax collector
35 shall be deposited into the county general fund.

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

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

44 (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee
45 collected on distinctive license tags issued under this section
46 shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of a
47 special fund to be administered by the board overseeing the
48 veterans nursing homes in this state for the benefit of indigent
49 veterans who are residents of such nursing homes.

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

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

59 (6) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
60 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
61 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the



62 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
63 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) month
64 and year license decals for each distinctive license tag issued
65 under this section, which will expire the same month and year as
66 the regular license tag.

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

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

