HOUSE BILL NO. 520

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS TO MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle, who is a member of the Mississippi Association of Realtors, 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 provided in subsection (3), shall be issued a special license tag which displays the blue and gold REALTOR trademark logo affixed to the left side of the license tag.

(2) Application for the special license tag shall be made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Proof of membership in the Mississippi Association of Realtors on the applicant's personal business card on which the REALTOR trademark logo is also printed shall be presented at that time. The application and the additional fee, less Two Dollars ($2.00) thereof 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.
(3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or after July 1, 2003, any person applying for a distinctive tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars ($30.00) for each distinctive license tag applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other taxes and fees. The additional fee shall be for a period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the original application is made for distinctive license tags under this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license tag. If the owner does wish to retain the distinctive license tag or is no longer affiliated with the Mississippi Association of Realtors, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

(4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the State Treasury on the day collected. 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-four Dollars ($24.00) of each additional fee collected on special license tags issued pursuant to this section shall be deposited into a special fund hereby created in the State Treasury for use by Habitat for Humanity in Mississippi to fund affordable housing projects statewide.

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

(c) Three Dollars ($3.00) of each additional fee shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be expended only for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction of highways.
59 (5) 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
tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
62 this section. The tax collector shall issue a month and year
63 license decal for each distinctive license tag issued under this
64 section, which will expire the same month and year as the license
tag.
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66 (6) In case of loss or theft of a distinctive license tag
67 issued under this section, the owner may make application and
68 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided in
69 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
tag shall be Ten Dollars ($10.00). The tax collector receiving
70 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
71 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
72 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
73 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
74 distinctive license tags issued under this section.
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76 **SECTION 2.** Nothing in this act shall affect or defeat any
77 claim, assessment, appeal, suit, right or cause of action for
taxes due or accrued under the highway privilege tax laws or the
78 Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Law of 1958 before the date on which
79 this act becomes effective, whether such claims, assessments,
80 appeals, suits or actions have been begun before the date on which
81 this act becomes effective or are begun thereafter; and the
82 provisions of the highway privilege laws or the Motor Vehicle Ad
83 Valorem Tax Law of 1958 are expressly continued in full force,
effect and operation for the purpose of the assessment, collection
and enrollment of liens for any taxes due or accrued and the
execution of any warrant under such laws before the date on which
84 this act becomes effective, and for the imposition of any
85 penalties, forfeitures or claims for failure to comply with such
86 laws.
SECTION 3. Section 1 of this act shall be codified as a new section in Chapter 19, Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.