

By: Representative Ishee

To: Insurance

## HOUSE BILL NO. 819

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION  
2 63-15-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PROOF OF MOTOR  
3 VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE OR OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL  
4 RESPONSIBILITY AS REQUIRED BY THIS CHAPTER BEFORE RECEIVING MOTOR  
5 VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS; 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 63-15-8, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 63-15-8. (1) Every owner of a motor vehicle in this state  
10 shall furnish proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other  
11 form of financial responsibility as required by this chapter  
12 before such owner may receive a license tag for a motor vehicle or  
13 renew a license tag. Proof of motor vehicle liability insurance  
14 or other form of financial responsibility as required by this  
15 chapter shall be made by signing a certificate on a form  
16 prescribed by the Commissioner of Insurance stating that the motor  
17 vehicle owner is insured or otherwise financially responsible for  
18 at least the minimum requirements as provided by this chapter and  
19 in any form as provided by this chapter. Such certificate shall  
20 state in bold print that anyone who shall affirmatively sign such  
21 certificate who is not insured or otherwise financially  
22 responsible for at least the minimum requirements as provided by  
23 this chapter shall be subject to a fine of Five Hundred Dollars  
24 (\$500.00) and imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year  
25 or both such fine and imprisonment. Such certificate shall be  
26 furnished to each motor vehicle owner by the tax collector of the  
27 county where the motor vehicle is registered. The tax collector  
28 shall mail such certificate with a motor vehicle tag renewal



29 notice that shall be mailed back to the tax collector before a tag  
30 may be renewed. The tax collectors shall also make such  
31 certificates available at the tax collectors' offices during  
32 regular business hours. The tax collector shall forward a copy of  
33 the certificate to the Department of Public Safety and shall keep  
34 the original in the tax collector's records.

35 (2) Any person who presents or causes to be presented to the  
36 Department of Public Safety or to any court of this state false  
37 evidence of motor vehicle liability insurance or other form of  
38 financial responsibility as required by this chapter, upon  
39 conviction, shall be guilty of perjury and shall be fined Five  
40 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and shall be subject to imprisonment for  
41 a period not exceeding one (1) year or both such fine and  
42 imprisonment. This fine and imprisonment shall be waived if the  
43 offender chooses to purchase, and provides proof of such purchase  
44 by the court date, motor vehicle liability insurance for a minimum  
45 of six (6) months' coverage in at least the minimum amounts  
46 required under paragraph (j) of Section 63-15-3. Any person  
47 convicted of filing false proof of motor vehicle liability  
48 insurance or other form of financial responsibility as required by  
49 this chapter shall surrender to the department his driver's  
50 license, license plates and registration of the motor vehicle for  
51 which false proof was presented and the procedure for the  
52 suspension of licenses provided in Section 63-15-11 relating to  
53 accidents shall be followed. Such driver's license, license  
54 plates and registration shall be reinstated upon payment of any  
55 fines and reinstatement fees, serving of a sentence if applicable,  
56 upon presentation of proof of financial responsibility for a  
57 period of one (1) year or upon presentation of proof of purchase  
58 of minimum motor vehicle liability insurance in accordance with  
59 the provisions of this subsection. The district attorney of the  
60 jurisdiction where any false evidence is filed shall prosecute any  
61 violations of this section. Any person convicted under this



62 section shall be assessed with all costs of prosecution and all  
63 court costs.

64 (3) All insurance carriers are required to notify the  
65 appropriate tax collector and sheriff and the Department of Public  
66 Safety when there is a lapse of the liability coverage that was  
67 purchased in accordance with this section. These notifications  
68 shall be made on a daily basis. Upon such notification, the  
69 sheriff, or his designee of an appropriate law enforcement agency,  
70 may confiscate the motor vehicle license tag, which tag may be  
71 returned to the owner in the manner provided in this section.

72 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
73 and after July 1, 2003.

