

By: Senator(s) Cuevas

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2608

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAG
2 FOR PERSONS WHO HOLD A CERTIFICATION FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
3 OF UNDERWATER INSTRUCTORS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a holder
6 of any certification issued by the National Association of
7 Underwater Instructors, upon payment of the road and bridge
8 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
9 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
10 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
11 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
12 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for any motor
13 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as holding
14 a certification issued by the National Association of Underwater
15 Instructors. The distinctive license tags so issued shall be of
16 such color and design as the State Tax Commission may prescribe
17 and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be
18 necessary to distinguish each license tag.

19 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
20 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
21 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Proof of certification by
22 the National Association of Underwater Instructors shall be
23 presented at the time of the application. The application and the
24 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
25 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
26 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis
27 as prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional



28 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the
29 county general fund.

30 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
31 after July 1, 2003, any person applying for a distinctive license
32 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
33 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
34 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
35 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
36 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
37 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
38 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
39 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
40 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
41 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
42 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
43 collector.

44 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
45 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
46 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
47 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
48 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
49 Treasurer shall distribute such collections as follows:

50 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
51 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
52 section shall be distributed to the National Association of
53 Underwater Instructors.

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

58 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee
59 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
60 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund



61 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or
62 reconstruction of highways.

63 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
64 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
65 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
66 27-19-44.2.

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 in 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, 2003.

