

By: Representative Eaton

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 935

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.60, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO REVISE THE IMAGE APPEARING ON DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS
3 ISSUED TO SUPPORTERS OF MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE; TO REVISE THE
4 PURPOSE FOR WHICH MONIES DERIVED FROM THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH TAGS
5 MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-56.60, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 27-19-56.60. (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 privileged to
18 obtain one distinctive motor vehicle license plate or tag for each
19 motor vehicle registered in his name identifying him as a
20 supporter of Mississippi agriculture. The tags shall depict an
21 agricultural scene, 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 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
27 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
28 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the
29 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less

30 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
31 remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as
32 prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee
33 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
34 general fund.

35 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
36 after July 1, 2002, any person applying for a distinctive license
37 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
38 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
39 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
40 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
41 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
42 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
43 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
44 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
45 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
46 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
47 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
48 collector.

49 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
50 State Treasury on the day received. At the end of each month, the
51 State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected under
52 this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute such
53 collections as follows:

54 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
55 collected on distinctive license tags issued under this section
56 shall be deposited into a special fund that is created in the
57 State Treasury to be known as the "Agriculture Distinctive License
58 Tag Fund." Monies in the fund may be expended, upon legislative
59 appropriation, by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture for
60 marketing activities to promote Mississippi-produced commodities
61 and resources.

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

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

71 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
72 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
73 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
74 27-19-44.2.

75 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
76 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
77 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
78 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
79 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
80 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
81 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
82 tag.

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

93 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
94 and after its passage.