

By: Representative Ellis

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1381

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF SPECIAL WINDSHIELD
 2 PLACARDS FOR USE BY EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN PARKING MOTOR VEHICLES IN
 3 AREAS SET ASIDE FOR SUCH PERSONS; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH PLACARDS
 4 SHALL BE ISSUED BY THE STATE TAX COMMISSION UPON PAYMENT OF A FEE
 5 OF FIVE DOLLARS; TO AUTHORIZE STATE AGENCIES AND POLITICAL
 6 SUBDIVISIONS TO SET ASIDE PARKING SPACES FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS; TO
 7 PRESCRIBE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED
 8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Tax Commission shall provide for
 11 the issuance of a temporary removable windshield placard, upon the
 12 application of an expectant mother. The temporary removable
 13 windshield placards authorized by this subsection shall be
 14 prepared by the State Tax Commission and shall be issued, for a
 15 fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00), to qualified applicants through the
 16 offices of the tax collectors of the counties. Application for a
 17 temporary removable windshield placard must be accompanied by the
 18 certification of a licensed physician that the applicant is at
 19 least four (4) months pregnant at the time of application. The
 20 temporary removable windshield placard must be displayed on the
 21 left side of the vehicle dashboard or by hanging it on the
 22 rearview mirror of the vehicle. The temporary removable
 23 windshield placard shall be void immediately upon the end of
 24 pregnancy by any means and shall not be displayed on any vehicle
 25 and shall be returned to the tax collector. The State Tax
 26 Commission shall prescribe the size, color, design and shape of
 27 the placard.

28 (2) Any state agency, county, municipality, or other
 29 political subdivision of the state may set aside parking spaces
 30 reserved for use by expectant mothers. The Mississippi Department

31 of Transportation shall prescribe such signage and markings as it
32 deems appropriate to designate such parking spaces, and all such
33 spaces shall conform to requirements established by the
34 department.

35 **SECTION 2.** (1) An expectant mother may use a special
36 parking placard obtained under Section 1 of this act to park in
37 areas designated under Section 1(2) of this act. When parking the
38 designated vehicle, the expectant mother parking placard shall be
39 prominently displayed in such a manner that it may be viewed from
40 the front and rear of the vehicle by hanging it from the front
41 windshield rearview mirror of a vehicle only when that vehicle is
42 utilizing a parking space reserved for expectant mothers. When
43 there is no rearview mirror, or the expectant mother parking
44 placard is not designed in such a manner to accommodate hanging
45 from a rearview mirror, the placard shall be displayed on the
46 dashboard.

47 (2) An expectant mother parking placard may also be issued
48 for use in a vehicle in which an expectant mother is being
49 transported.

50 **SECTION 3.** (1) Except for persons parking vehicles lawfully
51 displaying an expectant mother parking placard when such vehicles
52 are being operated by or for the transportation of an expectant
53 mother, no person shall park a vehicle on public or private
54 property reserved for an expectant mother, which property has been
55 so posted in accordance with regulations of the Department of
56 Transportation which shall require a sign stating the penalty
57 amount indicated under Section 6 of this act and that vehicles in
58 violation of this subsection may be towed.

59 (2) Any vehicle which is unlawfully parked in a designated
60 expectant mother parking area may be removed from that area by
61 towing and may be reclaimed by the vehicle owner upon payment of
62 the towing costs.

63 (3) Local authorities shall have the power and, by ordinance
64 or resolution, may authorize expectant mothers to issue statements
65 to violators or violating vehicles for violation of subsection (1)
66 of this section. The form of the statement shall be as prescribed
67 by the local authorities.

68 **SECTION 4.** An operator of a vehicle displaying an expectant
69 mother parking placard shall not make use of the parking
70 privileges accorded to expectant mothers under this act unless the
71 operator is an expectant mother or unless the vehicle is being
72 operated for the transportation of an expectant mother.

73 **SECTION 5.** Signs required to be posted under this section
74 shall be replaced when they become either obsolete or missing with
75 all costs to replace the necessary signs to be borne by the
76 persons responsible for signing the particular location.

77 **SECTION 6.** Any person violating this act commits a
78 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a fine
79 of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Two Hundred
80 Dollars (\$200.00).

81 **SECTION 7.** The Department of Transportation shall promulgate
82 such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to carry out the
83 provisions of this act.

84 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
85 and after July 1, 2004.