

By: Representative Banks

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1511

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS
2 FOR ATTORNEYS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a member
5 of the Mississippi Bar, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws
6 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon
7 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes
8 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of
9 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,
10 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount
11 provided in subsection (3), shall be issued a special license tag
12 for each motor vehicle registered in his name identifying such
13 person as an attorney. The distinctive license tags so issued
14 shall be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission,
15 with the advice of the Mississippi Bar and the Magnolia Bar
16 Association, may prescribe, and shall consist of such letters or
17 numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license
18 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. The applicant's bar
22 identification card shall be presented at that time as proof of
23 membership in the Mississippi Bar. 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, 2004, 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 disbursed to the State General Fund.

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

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

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

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

66 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
67 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
68 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
69 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
70 this section. The tax collector shall issue month and year decals
71 for each distinctive license tag issued under this section, which
72 will expire the same month and year as the regular license tag.

73 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
74 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
75 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
76 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
77 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
78 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
79 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
80 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
81 distributed proportionately in the same manner as funds from the
82 sale of regular distinctive license tags issued under this
83 section.

84 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
85 and after July 1, 2004.