

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2578

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.60, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 2 1972, TO REVISE THE DESIGN PLACED ON THE DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
 3 LICENSE TAGS THAT IDENTIFY A PERSON AS A SUPPORTER OF AGRICULTURE;
 4 TO PROVIDE THAT THE REVENUE FROM THE SALE OF SUCH TAGS THAT IS
 5 DEPOSITED INTO THE AGRICULTURE DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAG FUND SHALL
 6 BE UTILIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEFRAY THE COST OF
 7 THE MARKETING ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT PROMOTE
 8 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES PRODUCED IN MISSISSIPPI; AND
 9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

13 27-19-56.60. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
 14 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws
 15 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon
 16 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes
 17 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of
 18 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,
 19 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount
 20 provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be privileged to
 21 obtain one distinctive motor vehicle license plate or tag for each
 22 motor vehicle registered in his name identifying him as a
 23 supporter of Mississippi agriculture. The tags shall depict an
 24 agricultural scene, shall be of such color and design as the State
 25 Tax Commission, with the advice of the Commissioner of
 26 Agriculture, may prescribe * * *, and shall consist of such
 27 letters or numbers or both as may be necessary to distinguish each
 28 license tag.

29 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
 30 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms

31 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the
32 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
33 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
34 remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as
35 prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee
36 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
37 general fund.

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

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

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

64 that promote agricultural commodities and resources produced in
65 Mississippi.

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

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

75 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
76 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
77 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
78 27-19-44.2.

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

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

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