

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2817

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE FEE FOR DISTINCTIVE LICENSE  
3 TAGS FOR RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL  
4 SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL  
5 RETIRED TROOPERS ASSOCIATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-56.55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 27-19-56.55. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a  
10 retired member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and who is  
11 a resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge  
12 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as  
13 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup  
14 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of  
15 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this  
16 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor  
17 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a  
18 retired member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. The  
19 distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and  
20 design as the State Tax Commission may prescribe and shall consist  
21 of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to  
22 distinguish each license tag and may, in the discretion of the  
23 State Tax Commission, display the county name.

24 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
25 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
26 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. Applicants for such  
27 distinctive license tags shall present proof that they are a  
28 retired member of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol by

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

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

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

56 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee  
57 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
58 section shall be distributed to the Mississippi Highway Safety  
59 Patrol Retired Troopers Association.

60 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
61 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall

62 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn  
63 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

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

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

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

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

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