

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2909

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
2 LICENSE TAGS FOR EACH MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO
3 PROVIDE THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE FOR SUCH TAGS AND FOR THE
4 DISBURSEMENT OF SUCH FEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
7 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
8 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
9 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
10 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
11 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
12 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for any motor
13 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a
14 supporter of the Mississippi public school district of his choice.
15 The distinctive license tags so issued shall display the name of
16 the selected school district and shall be of such color and design
17 as the State Tax Commission, with the advice of the school
18 district, may prescribe and shall consist of such letters or
19 numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license
20 tag.

21 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
22 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
23 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. 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 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each distinctive license tag applied
34 for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other
35 taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of
36 time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established license tag
37 year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the
38 original application is made for a distinctive license tag under
39 this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal
40 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license
41 tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license
42 tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

43 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
44 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
45 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
46 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
47 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
48 Treasurer shall distribute such collections as follows:

49 (a) Forty-four Dollars (\$44.00) of each additional fee
50 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
51 section shall be disbursed to the Mississippi public school
52 district of which the purchaser is a supporter.

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) In order for a distinctive license tag to be issued
67 for a school district under this section, the school district must
68 request the tag and comply with the provisions of Section
69 27-19-44.

70 (b) Money disbursed to a school district under this
71 section shall be utilized for:

72 (i) Acquiring or improving technology for use in
73 classroom;

74 (ii) The purchase of textbooks; or

75 (iii) Any other educational purpose.

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

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

92 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
93 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

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