

By: Representatives Fleming, Clarke, Gibbs,
Thomas

To: Municipalities; Ways and
Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 746

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF ANY
2 MUNICIPALITY, IN THEIR DISCRETION, TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY MOTOR
3 VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
4 IN LOCATING, IDENTIFYING AND RECOVERING STOLEN OR ABANDONED MOTOR
5 VEHICLES; TO AUTHORIZE OWNERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSED AND
6 REGISTERED IN A MUNICIPALITY, UPON PAYMENT OF A FEE, TO REGISTER
7 AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR
8 WHICH MONEY DERIVED FROM THE FEES COLLECTED MAY BE EXPENDED BY THE
9 MUNICIPALITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) The governing authorities of any
12 municipality, in their discretion, may establish a voluntary motor
13 vehicle identification program to assist law enforcement officers
14 in locating, identifying and recovering stolen or abandoned motor
15 vehicles. The owner of a motor vehicle that is licensed and
16 registered in a municipality of this state, upon payment of a fee
17 of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per vehicle, may register his or her
18 vehicle or vehicles under the program with the tax collector of
19 the municipality, or the tax collector of the county if the
20 municipality's motor vehicle ad valorem taxes are collected by the
21 county tax collector. At the time of registration under the
22 program, the motor vehicle owner shall provide the tax collector
23 with the vehicle owner's name and address, the make, model and
24 license tag number of the vehicle, the vehicle identification
25 number (VIN) and such other information as the tax collector may
26 require. Each person registering and participating in the program
27 shall be issued by the tax collector a special decal designed and
28 approved by the governing authorities of the municipality for
29 placement on the lower driver's side of the windshield of the
30 vehicle. Each decal shall expire one (1) year from the date of

31 issue and may be renewed annually upon payment of a fee of Twenty
32 Dollars (\$20.00).

33 (2) The monies derived from the fees collected under
34 subsection (1) of this section may be expended by the governing
35 authorities of the municipality to defray the costs incurred in
36 establishing and operating the program. Monies derived from the
37 fees that exceed program operating costs may be expended by the
38 municipality for road repair and/or public safety.

39 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
40 and after July 1, 2005.