

By: Representative Fredericks

To: Insurance;  
Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 983

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION  
2 63-15-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PROOF OF MOTOR  
3 VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE OR OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL  
4 RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE RECEIVING MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS; TO  
5 AMEND SECTION 63-13-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PROOF  
6 OF MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE BEFORE RECEIVING INSPECTION  
7 STICKERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section

10 63-15-8, Mississippi Code of 1972:

11 63-15-8. (1) Every owner of a motor vehicle in this state  
12 shall furnish proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other  
13 form of financial responsibility as required by this chapter  
14 before such owner may receive a license tag for a motor vehicle or  
15 renew a license tag. Proof of motor vehicle liability insurance  
16 or other form of financial responsibility as required by this  
17 chapter shall be made by signing a certificate on a form  
18 prescribed by the Commissioner of Insurance stating that the motor  
19 vehicle owner is insured or otherwise financially responsible for  
20 at least the minimum requirements as provided by this chapter and  
21 in any form as provided by this chapter. Such certificate shall  
22 state in bold print that anyone who shall affirmatively sign such  
23 certificate who is not insured or otherwise financially  
24 responsible for at least the minimum requirements as provided by  
25 this chapter shall be subject to a fine of Five Hundred Dollars  
26 (\$500.00) and imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1)  
27 year, or both such fine and imprisonment. Such certificate shall  
28 be furnished to each motor vehicle owner by the tax collector of  
29 the county where the motor vehicle is registered. The tax

30 collector shall mail such certificate with a motor vehicle tag  
31 renewal notice that shall be mailed back to the tax collector  
32 before a tag may be renewed. The tax collector shall also make  
33 such certificates available at the tax collector's office during  
34 regular business hours. The tax collector shall forward a copy of  
35 the certificate to the Department of Public Safety and shall keep  
36 the original in the tax collector's records.

37 (2) Any person who presents or causes to be presented to the  
38 department or to any court of this state false evidence of motor  
39 vehicle liability insurance or other form of financial  
40 responsibility as required by this chapter, upon conviction, shall  
41 be guilty of perjury and shall be fined Five Hundred Dollars  
42 (\$500.00) and shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not  
43 exceeding one (1) year, or both such fine and imprisonment. This  
44 fine and imprisonment shall be waived if the offender chooses to  
45 purchase, and provides proof of such purchase by the court date,  
46 motor vehicle liability insurance for a minimum of six (6) months'  
47 coverage in at least the minimum amounts required under paragraph  
48 (j) of Section 63-15-3. Any person convicted of filing false  
49 proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other form of  
50 financial responsibility as required by this chapter shall  
51 surrender to the department his driver's license, license plates  
52 and registration of the motor vehicle for which false proof was  
53 presented and the procedure for the suspension of licenses  
54 provided in Section 63-15-11 relating to accidents shall be  
55 followed. Such driver's license, license plates and registration  
56 shall be reinstated upon payment of any fines and reinstatement  
57 fees, serving of a sentence if applicable, upon presentation of  
58 proof of financial responsibility for a period of one (1) year or  
59 upon presentation of proof of purchase of minimum motor vehicle  
60 liability insurance in accordance with the provisions of this  
61 subsection. The district attorney of the jurisdiction where any  
62 false evidence is filed shall prosecute any violation of this

63 section. Any person convicted under this section shall be  
64 assessed with all costs of prosecution and all court costs.

65 (3) All insurance carriers are required to notify the  
66 appropriate tax collector, sheriff and the department when there  
67 is a lapse of the liability coverage that was purchased in  
68 accordance with this section. Upon such notification, the sheriff  
69 may confiscate the motor vehicle license tag, which tag may be  
70 returned to the owner in the manner provided in this section.

71 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-13-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
72 amended as follows:

73 63-13-9. Such inspections shall be made of every such  
74 vehicle, and such certificates shall be obtained with respect to  
75 the mechanism, lights, tires, brakes and equipment as shall be  
76 designated by the motor vehicle inspection department by rules and  
77 regulations.

78 No vehicle equipped with a liquefied petroleum or natural gas  
79 carburetion system may be issued a certificate under this chapter  
80 unless the vehicle shall have first been inspected and approved by  
81 an inspector or qualified installer authorized by the State  
82 Liquefied Compressed Gas Board to inspect and approve the  
83 installation of such systems, and unless such approval is  
84 exhibited to the person making the actual inspection under this  
85 chapter.

86 No certificate may be issued on a vehicle under this chapter  
87 unless the vehicle owner/driver furnishes proof of motor vehicle  
88 liability insurance or other form of financial responsibility as  
89 required under Section 63-15-1 et seq.

90 The Commissioner of Public Safety may suspend the  
91 registration of any vehicle which he determines is in such unsafe  
92 condition as to constitute a menace to safety and which, after  
93 notice and demand, is not equipped as required in this chapter and  
94 for which a required certificate has not been obtained.

95           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
96 and after July 1, 2005.