

By: Representative Brown

To: Ways and Means

## HOUSE BILL NO. 876

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE  
2 LICENSE TAGS TO SUPPORTERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI HURRICANE RECOVERY  
3 FUND; TO PRESCRIBE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH  
4 LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES DERIVED  
5 FROM THE ADDITIONAL FEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle, who is a  
8 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws  
9 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon  
10 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes  
11 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of  
12 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,  
13 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount  
14 provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be issued a  
15 special license tag for each motor vehicle registered in his name  
16 identifying such person as a supporter of the Mississippi  
17 Hurricane Recovery Fund established by the Governor and the  
18 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The color and design of  
19 the distinctive license tags so issued shall be determined by the  
20 State Tax Commission based upon the advice and recommendations of  
21 three (3) persons, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor  
22 and who shall be a resident of Hancock County, one of whom shall  
23 be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and who shall be a  
24 resident of Harrison County and one of whom shall be appointed by  
25 the Speaker of the House and who shall be a resident of Jackson  
26 County. The distinctive license tags shall consist of such  
27 letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish  
28 each 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) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,  
34 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis  
35 as prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional  
36 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the  
37 county general fund.

38           (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
39 after July 1, 2006, 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 concurrently 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 collected. At the end of each month,  
54 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the  
55 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the  
56 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State  
57 Treasurer shall distribute such collections as follows:

58           (a) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) of each additional fee  
59 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
60 section shall be disbursed to the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery  
61 Fund.

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

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

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

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

89 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
90 and after July 1, 2006.