

By: Representative Lott

To: Ways and Means

## HOUSE BILL NO. 624

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE  
2 LICENSE TAGS DISPLAYING THE PHRASE "THANK A TEACHER TODAY"; TO  
3 PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE  
4 OF SUCH LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL  
5 FEE SHALL BE DISBURSED TO THE WILLIAM F. WINTER TEACHER SCHOLAR  
6 LOAN PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle, who is a  
9 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws  
10 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon  
11 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes  
12 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of  
13 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,  
14 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount  
15 provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be entitled to a  
16 distinctive license tag displaying the phrase "Thank a Teacher  
17 Today," for each motor vehicle registered in his name. The  
18 distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and  
19 design as the State Tax Commission may prescribe, and shall  
20 consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary  
21 to distinguish each license tag.

22 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
23 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
24 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the  
25 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
26 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,  
27 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis  
28 as prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional

29 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the  
30 county general fund.

31 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
32 after July 1, 2007, any person applying for a distinctive license  
33 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
34 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
35 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
36 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
37 period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established  
38 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
39 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
40 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
41 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
42 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
43 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
44 collector.

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

51 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee  
52 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
53 section shall be disbursed to the William F. Winter Teacher  
54 Scholar Loan Program.

55 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
56 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
57 be deposited into the Mississippi Burn Care Fund created pursuant  
58 to Section 7-9-70.

59 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee  
60 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
61 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund

62 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or  
63 reconstruction of highways.

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

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

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

86 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
87 and after July 1, 2007.