

By: Representatives Vince, Akins, Cummings,
Davis, Fleming, Frierson, Gibbs, Gregory,
Hamilton (6th), Hudson, Jennings, Markham,
Moss, Parker, Robinson (84th), Rogers (14th),
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To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 736

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE FROM ONE TO TWO THE NUMBER OF PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR
3 DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS THAT A QUALIFIED APPLICANT
4 MAY BE ISSUED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-56.5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 27-19-56.5. (1) In recognition of the patriotic service
9 rendered by Mississippians who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor
10 and by Mississippians who are recipients of the Purple Heart
11 Medal, any such person is privileged to obtain two (2) distinctive
12 motor vehicle license plates or tags identifying him as a Pearl
13 Harbor survivor or not more than two (2) distinctive motor vehicle
14 license plates or tags identifying him as a Purple Heart Medal
15 recipient. The distinctive plates or tags shall be of a color and
16 design designated by the State Tax Commission.

17 (2) The distinctive license plates shall be prepared by the
18 State Tax Commission and shall be issued through the tax
19 collectors of the counties in the same manner as are other motor
20 vehicle license plates or tags. A tag fee of Fifteen Dollars
21 (\$15.00), in addition to all other taxes and fees, shall be
22 collected by the tax collector for the Pearl Harbor distinctive
23 tag. The first distinctive tag issued to Purple Heart Medal
24 recipients under the provisions of this section shall be exempt
25 from ad valorem taxes, privilege taxes and all other taxes and
26 fees. There shall be no exemption from ad valorem taxes,
27 privilege taxes or other taxes and fees for the issuance of a
28 second distinctive tag to Purple Heart Medal recipients. However,

29 the surviving spouse of a deceased person who was issued a Purple
30 Heart Medal distinctive license plate or tag under this section
31 shall be entitled to apply for or retain one (1) such license tag
32 and may continue annually to renew registration for such
33 distinctive motor vehicle license plate or tag for as long as the
34 spouse remains unmarried. At the time of application or renewal
35 registration, a surviving spouse who desires to retain such
36 distinctive plate or tag shall file with the county tax collector
37 a sworn statement that the spouse is unmarried, and any such
38 vehicle when so registered shall be exempt from ad valorem taxes,
39 privilege taxes and all other taxes and fees. The tax collector
40 shall monthly forward the additional fee of Fifteen Dollars
41 (\$15.00) charged for issuance of a Pearl Harbor distinctive tag to
42 the State Tax Commission which shall deposit such fee to the
43 credit of the State General Fund. An applicant for a distinctive
44 tag under this section shall present to the issuing official
45 either (a) written proof that the applicant is an honorably
46 discharged former member of one (1) of the Armed Forces of the
47 United States and, while serving in the Armed Forces of the United
48 States, was present during the attack on the island of Oahu,
49 Territory of Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, between the hours of
50 7:55 a.m. and 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time, or (b) written proof that
51 the applicant is a Purple Heart Medal recipient. The distinctive
52 license plates or tags so issued shall be used only upon a
53 personally or jointly owned private passenger vehicle (to include
54 station wagons, recreational motor vehicles and pickup trucks)
55 registered in the name, or jointly in the name, of the person
56 making application therefor, and when issued to such person shall
57 be used upon the vehicle for which issued in lieu of the standard
58 license plate or license tag normally issued for such vehicle.

59 (3) The distinctive license plates shall not be transferable
60 between motor vehicle owners; and in the event the owner of a
61 vehicle bearing a distinctive plate shall sell, trade, exchange or

62 otherwise dispose of the vehicle, such plate shall be retained by
63 such owner and returned to the tax collector.

64 (4) A vehicle that displays a distinctive license plate
65 issued under this section may park free of charge in any state
66 parking space or state parking facility when the person to whom
67 the license plate was issued is operating or occupying the
68 vehicle.

69 (5) Any person evading or violating any of the provisions of
70 this section, or attempting to secure benefits under this section
71 to which he is not entitled, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,
72 upon conviction, shall be fined not less than One Thousand Dollars
73 (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned in the county jail for not less than six
74 (6) months, or both.

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