

By: Representative Lott

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1039

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
2 LICENSE TAGS DISPLAYING THE PHRASE "IN GOD WE TRUST"; TO PROVIDE
3 FOR THE COLLECTION OF AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH
4 LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE
5 SHALL BE DISBURSED IN EQUAL AMOUNTS TO THE MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER,
6 ORGANIZATION OR DIVISION OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, GIRL SCOUTS OF
7 the USA AND THE SALVATION ARMY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

52 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
53 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
54 section shall be disbursed in equal amounts to the Mississippi
55 chapter, organization or division of Boy Scouts of America, Girl
56 Scouts of the USA and the Salvation Army.

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

61 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee
62 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this

63 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund
64 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or
65 reconstruction of highways.

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

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

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

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