

By: Representative Arnold

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 285

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
2 LICENSE TAGS TO PERSONS WHO ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE COMBAT ACTION
3 RIBBON; TO PRESCRIBE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH
4 LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADDITIONAL
5 FEE COLLECTED FROM THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH LICENSE TAGS; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) In recognition of the patriotic services
9 rendered by Mississippians who are recipients of the Combat Action
10 Ribbon, any such person, upon complying with the motor vehicle
11 laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and
12 upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem
13 taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law for private
14 carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial
15 motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional annual fee in
16 the amount provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be
17 privileged to obtain one (1) distinctive motor vehicle license
18 plate or tag for each motor vehicle registered in his or her name
19 identifying him or her as a recipient of the Combat Action Ribbon.
20 The tags shall be of such color and design as the Department of



21 Revenue, with the advice of the State Veterans Affairs Board, may
22 prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both,
23 as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

24 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags shall be
25 made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the
26 Department of Revenue. Applicants for such distinctive license
27 tags shall present to the issuing official written proof that the
28 applicant is a recipient of the Combat Action Ribbon. The
29 application and the additional fee, less Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be
30 retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to the Department
31 of Revenue on a monthly basis as prescribed by the department.
32 The portion of the additional fee retained by the tax collector
33 shall be deposited into the county general fund.

34 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
35 after July 1, 2018, any person applying for a distinctive license
36 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
37 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
38 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
39 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
40 period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established
41 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
42 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
43 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
44 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
45 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive



46 license tag, he or she must surrender it to the local county tax
47 collector.

48 (4) The Department of Revenue shall deposit all fees into
49 the State Treasury on the day received. At the end of each month,
50 the Department of Revenue shall certify the total fees collected
51 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute
52 such collections as follows:

53 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
54 collected on distinctive license tags issued under this section
55 shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of a
56 special fund to be administered by the State Veterans Affairs
57 Board of this state for the benefit of the State Veterans Memorial
58 Cemetery and veterans nursing homes in this state.

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

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

68 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
69 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall



70 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
71 27-19-44.2.

72 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
73 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
74 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
75 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
76 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
77 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
78 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
79 tag.

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

90 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
91 and after July 1, 2018.

