

By: Representative Bennett

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 222

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.186, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE IRAQ VETERAN DISTINCTIVE
3 MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAG TO PERSONS WHO ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE
4 INHERENT RESOLVE CAMPAIGN MEDAL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-56.186, Mississippi Code of 1972,
7 is amended as follows:

8 27-19-56.186. (1) In recognition of the patriotic services
9 rendered by Mississippians who are recipients of the Southwest
10 Asia Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on
11 Terrorism Expeditionary Medal * * *, the Armed Forces
12 Expeditionary Medal or the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal for
13 service in, or in support of operations in, Iraq, any such person,
14 upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to
15 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon payment of
16 the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and
17 registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of
18 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,
19 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount



20 provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be privileged to
21 obtain one (1) distinctive motor vehicle license plate or tag for
22 each motor vehicle registered in his or her name identifying him
23 or her as an Iraq veteran. The tags shall be of such color and
24 design as the * * * Department of Revenue, with the advice of the
25 State Veterans Affairs Board, may prescribe and shall consist of
26 such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to
27 distinguish each license tag.

28 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags shall be
29 made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the * * *
30 Department of Revenue. Applicants for such distinctive license
31 tags shall present to the issuing official written proof that the
32 applicant is a recipient of the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the
33 Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary
34 Medal * * *, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Inherent
35 Resolve Campaign Medal for service in, or in support of operations
36 in, Iraq. The application and the additional fee, less Two
37 Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
38 remitted to the * * * Department of Revenue on a monthly basis as
39 prescribed by the * * * department. The portion of the additional
40 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the
41 county general fund.

42 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
43 after July 1, 2009, any person applying for a distinctive license
44 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount



45 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
46 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
47 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
48 period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established
49 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
50 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
51 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
52 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
53 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
54 license tag, he or she must surrender it to the local county tax
55 collector.

56 (4) The * * * Department of Revenue shall deposit all fees
57 into the State Treasury on the day received. At the end of each
58 month, the * * * Department of Revenue shall certify the total
59 fees collected under this section to the State Treasurer who shall
60 distribute such collections as follows:

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

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



69 be deposited into the Mississippi Burn Care Fund created pursuant
70 to Section 7-9-70.

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

76 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
77 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
78 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
79 27-19-44.2.

80 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
81 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
82 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
83 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
84 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
85 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
86 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
87 tag.

88 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
89 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
90 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
91 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
92 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
93 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and



94 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
95 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
96 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
97 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

98 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after July 1, 2019.

