

By: Representative Watson

To: Judiciary B;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 688

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-21-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 SPECIFY THE SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
3 FUND; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 25-7-9, 25-7-13, 27-19-56.99 AND  
4 27-19-56.135, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH SPECIFY CHANCERY AND  
5 CIRCUIT COURT FEES AND FEES FOR CERTAIN SPECIALIZED MOTOR VEHICLE  
6 LICENSE TAGS, FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-21-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 9-21-43. (1) There is \* \* \* created in the State Treasury a  
12 special fund designated as the Civil Legal Assistance Fund. The  
13 funds shall be administered by the Supreme Court through the  
14 Administrative Office of Courts. The special fund shall consist  
15 of monies that are directed to be paid into the fund by Sections  
16 25-7-9, 25-7-13, 27-19-56.99 and 27-19-56.135, and any other  
17 monies made available for the fund by the Legislature. The  
18 Administrative Office of Courts may also accept monies from any  
19 public or private source for deposit into the fund. Money  
20 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse



21 into the State General Fund, and any interest earned from the  
22 investment of monies in the fund shall be deposited to the credit  
23 of the \* \* \* fund.

24 (2) All monies shall be allocated to only those  
25 organizations providing legal services to low income  
26 Mississippians. Furthermore, no monies from this fund shall be  
27 expended to provide legal services in matters currently prohibited  
28 by the Legal Services Corporation, Washington, D.C., and no funds  
29 shall be expended on persons who are not financially eligible to  
30 receive legal services as directed by the Legal Services  
31 Corporation, Washington, D.C.

32 (3) The monies appropriated shall be distributed to eligible  
33 legal services programs based on the percentage of poverty  
34 population within the program service area, consistent with the  
35 formula used by the Legal Services Corporation.

36 (4) Monies appropriated to the fund may be used to promote  
37 increased participation by the private bar in the delivery of  
38 legal services to the indigent through the Mississippi Volunteer  
39 Lawyers Project.

40 (5) Recipients of funds shall have the following duties:

41 (a) To develop, operate and administer programs within  
42 their respective service areas that provide free legal services to  
43 indigent clients involved in civil matters;

44 (b) To report annually to the Supreme Court, through  
45 the Administrative Office of Courts, on its activities, including



46 providing a copy of its annual audit that accounts for the use of  
47 the funds; and

48 (c) To refund annually all unused or uncommitted funds.

49 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
50 brought forward as follows:

51 **[Through December 31, 2023, this section shall read as**  
52 **follows:]**

53 25-7-9. (1) The clerks of the chancery courts shall charge  
54 the following fees:

55 (a) For the act of certifying copies of filed  
56 documents, for each complete document.....\$ 1.00

57 (b) (i) Recording each deed, will, lease, amendment,  
58 subordination, lien, release, cancellation, order, decree, oath,  
59 etc., per book and page listed where applicable, each deed of  
60 trust, or any other document, for the first five (5)  
61 pages..... \$ 25.00

62 (ii) Each additional page.....\$ 1.00

63 (c) (i) Recording oil and gas leases, cancellations,  
64 etc., including indexing in general indices; for the first five  
65 (5) pages.....\$ 25.00

66 (ii) Recording each oil and gas assignment,  
67 amendment of assignment, release, etc., first five (5)  
68 pages.....\$ 25.00

69 per additional assignee.....\$ 18.00

70 (iii) Each additional page.....\$ 1.00



71                   (iv) Sectional index entries per section or  
72 subdivision lot.....\$ 1.00  
73                   (v) Archive fee.....\$ 1.00  
74                   (vi) Entering marginal notations, if requested on  
75 document or by cover letter, pertaining to the recording of any  
76 oil and gas document only per book and page.....\$ 4.00  
77                   (d) (i) Furnishing copies of any papers of record or  
78 on file:  
79                   If performed by the clerk or his employee,  
80 per page.....\$ .50  
81                   If performed by any other person,  
82 per page.....\$ .25  
83                   (ii) Entering marginal notations on  
84 documents of record.....\$ 1.00  
85                   (e) For each day's attendance on the board of  
86 supervisors, for himself and one (1) deputy, each.....\$ 20.00  
87                   (f) For other services as clerk of the board of  
88 supervisors an allowance shall be made to him (payable  
89 semiannually at the July and January meetings) out of the county  
90 treasury, an annual sum not  
91 exceeding.....\$3,000.00  
92                   (g) For each day's attendance on the chancery court, to  
93 be approved by the chancellor:  
94                   For the first chancellor sitting only, clerk and two (2)  
95 deputies, each.....\$ 85.00



96 For the second chancellor sitting, clerk only.....\$ 85.00

97 Provided that the fees herein prescribed shall be the total  
98 remuneration for the clerk and his deputies for attending chancery  
99 court.

100 (h) On order of the court, clerks and not more than two  
101 (2) deputies may be allowed five (5) extra days for each term of  
102 court for attendance upon the court to get up records.

103 (i) For public service not otherwise specifically  
104 provided for, the chancery court may by order allow the clerk to  
105 be paid by the county on the order of the board of supervisors, an  
106 annual sum not exceeding.....\$5,000.00

107 (j) For each civil filing, to be deposited into the  
108 Civil Legal Assistance Fund.....\$ 5.00

109 The chancery clerk shall itemize on the original document a  
110 detailed fee bill of all charges due or paid for filing, recording  
111 and abstracting same. No person shall be required to pay such  
112 fees until same have been so itemized, but those fees may be  
113 demanded before the document is recorded.

114 (2) The following fee shall be a total fee for all services  
115 performed by the clerk with respect to any civil case filed that  
116 includes, but is not limited to, divorce, alteration of birth or  
117 marriage certificate, removal of minority, guardianship or  
118 conservatorship, estate of deceased, adoption, land dispute  
119 injunction, settlement of small claim, contempt, modification,  
120 partition suit, or commitment, which shall be payable upon filing



121 and shall accrue to the chancery clerk at the time of filing. The  
122 clerk or his successor in office shall perform all duties set  
123 forth without additional compensation or  
124 fee.....\$ 85.00

125 (3) For every civil case filed:

126 (a) An additional fee to be deposited to the credit of  
127 the Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund established in  
128 Section 9-21-14.....\$ 10.00

129 (b) An additional fee to be deposited to the  
130 credit of the Judicial System Operation Fund established in  
131 Section 9-21-45.....\$ 40.00

132 (4) Cost of process shall be borne by the issuing party.  
133 Additionally, should the attorney or person filing the pleadings  
134 desire the clerk to pay the cost to the sheriff for serving  
135 process on one (1) person or more, or to pay the cost of  
136 publication, the clerk shall demand the actual charges therefor,  
137 at the time of filing.

138 **[From and after January 1, 2024, and through December 31,**  
139 **2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

140 (1) The clerks of the chancery courts shall charge the  
141 following fees:

142 (a) For the act of certifying copies of filed  
143 documents, for each complete document.....\$ 1.00

144 (b) (i) Recording each deed, will, lease, amendment,  
145 subordination, lien, release, cancellation, order, decree, oath,



146 etc., per book and page listed where applicable, each deed of  
 147 trust, or any other document, for the first five (5)  
 148 pages..... \$ 25.00  
 149                   (ii) Each additional page.....\$ 1.00  
 150           (c) (i) Recording oil and gas leases, cancellations,  
 151 etc., including indexing in general indices; for the first five  
 152 (5) pages.....\$ 25.00  
 153                   (ii) Recording each oil and gas assignment,  
 154 amendment of assignment, release, etc., first five (5)  
 155 pages.....\$ 25.00  
 156 per additional assignee.....\$ 18.00  
 157                   (iii) Each additional page.....\$ 1.00  
 158                   (iv) Sectional index entries per section or  
 159 subdivision lot.....\$ 1.00  
 160                   (v) Archive fee.....\$ 1.00  
 161                   (vi) Entering marginal notations, if requested on  
 162 document or by cover letter, pertaining to the recording of any  
 163 oil and gas document only per book and page.....\$ 4.00  
 164           (d) (i) Furnishing copies of any papers of record or  
 165 on file:  
 166                If performed by the clerk or his employee,  
 167 per page.....\$ .50  
 168                If performed by any other person,  
 169 per page.....\$ .25  
 170                   (ii) Entering marginal notations on



171 documents of record.....\$ 1.00

172 (e) For attending the board of supervisors' meeting, an  
173 annual sum not exceeding.....\$2,500.00

174 (f) For other services as clerk of the board of  
175 supervisors an allowance shall be made to him (payable  
176 semiannually at the July and January meetings) out of the county  
177 treasury, an annual sum not exceeding.....\$5,500.00

178 (g) For each day's attendance on the chancery court, to  
179 be approved by the chancellor:

180 For the first chancellor sitting only, clerk and two (2)  
181 deputies, each.....\$ 85.00

182 For the second chancellor sitting, clerk only.....\$ 85.00

183 Provided that the fees herein prescribed shall be the total  
184 remuneration for the clerk and his deputies for attending chancery  
185 court.

186 (h) On order of the court, clerks and not more than two  
187 (2) deputies may be allowed five (5) extra days for each term of  
188 court for attendance upon the court to get up records.

189 (i) For public service not otherwise specifically  
190 provided for, the chancery court may by order allow the clerk to  
191 be paid by the county on the order of the board of supervisors, an  
192 annual sum not exceeding.....\$5,000.00

193 (j) For each civil filing, to be deposited into the  
194 Civil Legal Assistance Fund.....\$ 5.00





195 The chancery clerk shall itemize on the original document a  
196 detailed fee bill of all charges due or paid for filing, recording  
197 and abstracting same. No person shall be required to pay such  
198 fees until same have been so itemized, but those fees may be  
199 demanded before the document is recorded.

200 (2) The following fee shall be a total fee for all services  
201 performed by the clerk with respect to any civil case filed that  
202 includes, but is not limited to, divorce, alteration of birth or  
203 marriage certificate, removal of minority, guardianship or  
204 conservatorship, estate of deceased, adoption, land dispute  
205 injunction, settlement of small claim, contempt, modification,  
206 partition suit, or commitment, which shall be payable upon filing  
207 and shall accrue to the chancery clerk at the time of filing. The  
208 clerk or his successor in office shall perform all duties set  
209 forth without additional compensation or  
210 fee.....\$ 85.00

211 (3) For every civil case filed:

212 (a) An additional fee to be deposited to the credit of  
213 the Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund established in  
214 Section 9-21-14.....\$ 10.00

215 (b) An additional fee to be deposited to the  
216 credit of the Judicial System Operation Fund established in  
217 Section 9-21-45.....\$ 40.00

218 (4) Cost of process shall be borne by the issuing party.  
219 Additionally, should the attorney or person filing the pleadings



220 desire the clerk to pay the cost to the sheriff for serving  
221 process on one (1) person or more, or to pay the cost of  
222 publication, the clerk shall demand the actual charges therefor,  
223 at the time of filing.

224 **[From and after January 1, 2028, this section shall read as**  
225 **follows:]**

226 (1) The clerks of the chancery courts shall charge the  
227 following fees:

228 (a) For the act of certifying copies of filed  
229 documents, for each complete document.....\$ 1.00

230 (b) (i) Recording each deed, will, lease, amendment,  
231 subordination, lien, release, cancellation, order, decree, oath,  
232 etc., per book and page listed where applicable, each deed of  
233 trust, or any other document, for the first five (5)  
234 pages..... \$ 25.00

235 (ii) Each additional page.....\$ 1.00

236 (c) (i) Recording oil and gas leases, cancellations,  
237 etc., including indexing in general indices; for the first five  
238 (5) pages.....\$ 25.00

239 (ii) Recording each oil and gas assignment,  
240 amendment of assignment, release, etc., first five (5)  
241 pages.....\$ 25.00

242 per additional assignee.....\$ 18.00

243 (iii) Each additional page.....\$ 1.00



244 (iv) Sectional index entries per section or  
245 subdivision lot.....\$ 1.00  
246 (v) Archive fee.....\$ 1.00  
247 (vi) Entering marginal notations, if requested on  
248 document or by cover letter, pertaining to the recording of any  
249 oil and gas document only per book and page.....\$ 4.00  
250 (d) (i) Furnishing copies of any papers of record or  
251 on file:  
252 If performed by the clerk or his employee,  
253 per page.....\$ .50  
254 If performed by any other person,  
255 per page.....\$ .25  
256 (ii) Entering marginal notations on  
257 documents of record.....\$ 1.00  
258 (e) For attending the board of supervisors' meeting an  
259 annual sum not exceeding.....\$ 5,000.00  
260 (f) For other services as clerk of the board of  
261 supervisors an allowance shall be made to him (payable  
262 semiannually at the July and January meetings) out of the county  
263 treasury, an annual sum not exceeding.....\$10,000.00  
264 (g) For each day's attendance on the chancery court, to  
265 be approved by the chancellor:  
266 For the first chancellor sitting only, clerk and two (2)  
267 deputies, each.....\$ 85.00  
268 For the second chancellor sitting, clerk only.....\$ 85.00



269            Provided that the fees herein prescribed shall be the total  
270 remuneration for the clerk and his deputies for attending chancery  
271 court.

272            (h) On order of the court, clerks and not more than two  
273 (2) deputies may be allowed five (5) extra days for each term of  
274 court for attendance upon the court to get up records.

275            (i) For public service not otherwise specifically  
276 provided for, the chancery court may by order allow the clerk to  
277 be paid by the county on the order of the board of supervisors, an  
278 annual sum not exceeding.....\$5,000.00

279            (j) For each civil filing, to be deposited into the  
280 Civil Legal Assistance Fund.....\$     5.00

281            The chancery clerk shall itemize on the original document a  
282 detailed fee bill of all charges due or paid for filing, recording  
283 and abstracting same. No person shall be required to pay such  
284 fees until same have been so itemized, but those fees may be  
285 demanded before the document is recorded.

286            (2) The following fee shall be a total fee for all services  
287 performed by the clerk with respect to any civil case filed that  
288 includes, but is not limited to, divorce, alteration of birth or  
289 marriage certificate, removal of minority, guardianship or  
290 conservatorship, estate of deceased, adoption, land dispute  
291 injunction, settlement of small claim, contempt, modification,  
292 partition suit, or commitment, which shall be payable upon filing  
293 and shall accrue to the chancery clerk at the time of filing. The



294 clerk or his successor in office shall perform all duties set  
295 forth without additional compensation or  
296 fee.....\$ 85.00

297 (3) For every civil case filed:

298 (a) An additional fee to be deposited to the credit of  
299 the Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund established in  
300 Section 9-21-14.....\$ 10.00

301 (b) An additional fee to be deposited to the  
302 credit of the Judicial System Operation Fund established in  
303 Section 9-21-45.....\$ 40.00

304 (4) Cost of process shall be borne by the issuing party.  
305 Additionally, should the attorney or person filing the pleadings  
306 desire the clerk to pay the cost to the sheriff for serving  
307 process on one (1) person or more, or to pay the cost of  
308 publication, the clerk shall demand the actual charges therefor,  
309 at the time of filing.

310 **SECTION 3.** Section 25-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
311 brought forward as follows:

312 25-7-13. (1) The clerks of the circuit court shall charge  
313 the following fees:

314 (a) Docketing, filing, marking and registering each  
315 complaint, petition and indictment.....\$ 85.00

316 The fee set forth in this paragraph shall be the total fee  
317 for all services performed by the clerk up to and including entry  
318 of judgment with respect to each complaint, petition or



319 indictment, including all answers, claims, orders, continuances  
320 and other papers filed therein, issuing each writ, summons,  
321 subpoena or other such instruments, swearing witnesses, taking and  
322 recording bonds and pleas, and recording judgments, orders, fiats  
323 and certificates; the fee shall be payable upon filing and shall  
324 accrue to the clerk at the time of collection. The clerk or his  
325 successor in office shall perform all duties set forth above  
326 without additional compensation or fee.

327 (b) Docketing and filing each motion to renew judgment,  
328 notice of renewal of judgment, suggestion for a writ of  
329 garnishment, suggestion for a writ of execution and judgment  
330 debtor actions and issuing all process, filing and recording  
331 orders or other papers and swearing witnesses.....\$ 35.00

332 (c) For every civil case filed, an additional fee to be  
333 deposited to the credit of the Comprehensive Electronic Court  
334 Systems Fund established in Section 9-21-14.....\$ 10.00

335 (d) For every civil case filed, an additional fee to be  
336 deposited to the credit of the Judicial System Operation Fund  
337 established in Section 9-21-45.....\$ 40.00

338 (2) Except as provided in subsection (1) of this section,  
339 the clerks of the circuit court shall charge the following fees:

340 (a) Filing and marking each order or other paper and  
341 recording and indexing same.....\$ 2.00

342 (b) Issuing each writ, summons, subpoena, citation,  
343 capias and other such instruments.....\$ 1.00



344 (c) Administering an oath and taking bond.....\$ 2.00

345 (d) Certifying copies of filed documents, for each

346 complete document.....\$ 1.00

347 (e) Recording orders, fiats, licenses, certificates,

348 oaths and bonds:

349 First page.....\$ 2.00

350 Each additional page.....\$ 1.00

351 (f) Furnishing copies of any papers of record or on

352 file and entering marginal notations on documents of record:

353 If performed by the clerk or his employee, per page

354 .....\$ 1.00

355 If performed by any other person, per page.....\$ .25

356 (g) Judgment roll entry.....\$ 5.00

357 (h) Taxing cost and certificate.....\$ 1.00

358 (i) For taking and recording application for marriage

359 license, for filing and recording consent of parents when required

360 by law, for filing and recording medical certificate, filing and

361 recording proof of age, recording and issuing license, recording

362 and filing returns.....\$ 35.00

363 The clerk shall deposit Fourteen Dollars (\$14.00) of each fee

364 collected for a marriage license in the Victims of Domestic

365 Violence Fund established in Section 93-21-117, on a monthly

366 basis.



367 (j) For certified copy of marriage license and search  
368 of record, the same fee charged by the Bureau of Vital Statistics  
369 of the State Board of Health.

370 (k) For public service not particularly provided for,  
371 the circuit court may allow the clerk, per annum, to be paid by  
372 the county on presentation of the circuit court's order, the  
373 following amount.....\$5,000.00

374 However, in the counties having two (2) judicial districts,  
375 such above allowance shall be made for each judicial district.

376 (l) For drawing jurors and issuing venire, to be paid  
377 by the county.....\$ 5.00

378 (m) For each day's attendance upon the circuit court  
379 term, for himself and necessary deputies allowed by the court,  
380 each to be paid by the county.....\$ 75.00

381 (n) Summons, each juror to be paid by the county upon  
382 the allowance of the court.....\$ 1.00

383 (o) For issuing each grand jury subpoena, to be paid by  
384 the county on allowance by the court, not to exceed Twenty-five  
385 Dollars (\$25.00) in any one (1) term of court.....\$ 1.00

386 (p) For each civil filing, to be deposited into the  
387 Civil Legal Assistance Fund.....\$ 5.00

388 (3) On order of the court, clerks and deputies may be  
389 allowed five (5) extra days for attendance upon the court to get  
390 up records.





391           (4) The clerk's fees in state cases where the state fails in  
392 the prosecution, or in cases of felony where the defendant is  
393 convicted and the cost cannot be made out of his estate, in an  
394 amount not to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) in one (1)  
395 year, shall be paid out of the county treasury on approval of the  
396 circuit court, and the allowance thereof by the board of  
397 supervisors of the county. In counties having two (2) judicial  
398 districts, such allowance shall be made in each judicial district;  
399 however, the maximum thereof shall not exceed Eight Hundred  
400 Dollars (\$800.00). Clerks in the circuit court, in cases where  
401 appeals are taken in criminal cases and no appeal bond is filed,  
402 shall be allowed by the board of supervisors of the county after  
403 approval of their accounts by the circuit court, in addition to  
404 the above fees, for making such transcript the rate of Two Dollars  
405 (\$2.00) per page.

406           (5) The clerk of the circuit court may retain as his  
407 commission on all money coming into his hands, by law or order of  
408 the court, a sum to be fixed by the court not exceeding one-half  
409 of one percent (1/2 of 1%) on all such sums.

410           (6) For making final records required by law, including, but  
411 not limited to, circuit and county court minutes, and furnishing  
412 transcripts of records, the circuit clerk shall charge Two Dollars  
413 (\$2.00) per page. The same fees shall be allowed to all officers  
414 for making and certifying copies of records or papers which they  
415 are authorized to copy and certify.



416 (7) The circuit clerk shall prepare an itemized statement of  
417 fees for services performed, cost incurred, or for furnishing  
418 copies of any papers of record or on file, and shall submit the  
419 statement to the parties or, if represented, to their attorneys  
420 within sixty (60) days. A bill for same shall accompany the  
421 statement.

422 **SECTION 4.** Section 27-19-56.99, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
423 brought forward as follows:

424 27-19-56.99. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle, who is a  
425 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws  
426 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon  
427 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes  
428 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of  
429 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,  
430 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount  
431 provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be issued a  
432 special license tag for each motor vehicle registered in his name  
433 identifying such person as a supporter of the Civil Legal  
434 Assistance Fund. The distinctive license tags so issued shall be  
435 of such color and design as the Department of Revenue, with the  
436 advice of the Administrative Office of Courts, may prescribe, and  
437 shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be  
438 necessary to distinguish each license tag.

439 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
440 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms



441 prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The application and the  
442 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
443 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,  
444 shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis  
445 as prescribed by the department. The portion of the additional  
446 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the  
447 county general fund.

448 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
449 after July 1, 2004, any person applying for a distinctive license  
450 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount  
451 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag  
452 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all  
453 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a  
454 period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established  
455 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the  
456 time the original application is made for a distinctive license  
457 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of  
458 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive  
459 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive  
460 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax  
461 collector.

462 (4) The Department of Revenue shall deposit all fees into  
463 the State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each  
464 month, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the State  
465 Treasurer the total fees collected under this section from the



466 issuance of the distinctive license tags issued under this  
467 section. The State Treasurer shall distribute such collections as  
468 follows:

469 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee  
470 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
471 section shall be disbursed to the Civil Legal Assistance Fund  
472 created under Section 9-21-43.

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

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

482 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
483 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
484 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section  
485 27-19-44.2.

486 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
487 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
488 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
489 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
490 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license



491 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
492 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
493 tag.

494 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
495 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
496 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
497 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
498 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
499 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
500 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
501 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
502 distributed proportionately in the same manner as funds from the  
503 sale of regular distinctive license tags issued under this  
504 section.

505 **SECTION 5.** Section 27-19-56.135, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
506 is brought forward as follows:

507 27-19-56.135. (1) Beginning with any registration year  
508 commencing on or after July 1, 2011, any owner of a motor vehicle  
509 who is a member of The Mississippi Bar, upon complying with the  
510 motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor  
511 vehicles, and upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes,  
512 ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law for  
513 private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other  
514 noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional  
515 annual fee in the amount provided in subsection (3), shall be



516 issued a special license tag for each motor vehicle registered in  
517 his name identifying such person as an attorney. The distinctive  
518 license tags so issued shall be of such color and design as the  
519 Department of Revenue, with the advice of The Mississippi Bar and  
520 the Magnolia Bar Association, may prescribe, and shall consist of  
521 such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to  
522 distinguish each license tag.

523 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
524 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
525 prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The applicant's bar  
526 identification card shall be presented at that time as proof of  
527 membership in The Mississippi Bar. The application and the  
528 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less  
529 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,  
530 shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis  
531 as prescribed by the department. The portion of the additional  
532 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the  
533 county general fund.

534 (3) Any person applying for a distinctive license tag under  
535 this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount of Thirty  
536 Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag applied for  
537 under this section, which shall be in addition to all other taxes  
538 and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of time  
539 to run concurrently with the vehicle's established license tag  
540 year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the



541 original application is made for a distinctive license tag under  
542 this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal  
543 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license  
544 tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license  
545 tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

546 (4) The Department of Revenue shall deposit all fees into  
547 the State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each  
548 month, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the State  
549 Treasurer the total fees collected under this section from the  
550 issuance of the distinctive license tags issued under this  
551 section. The State Treasurer shall distribute such collections as  
552 follows:

553 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee  
554 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this  
555 section shall be disbursed to the Mississippi Civil Legal  
556 Assistance Fund.

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

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



566 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected  
567 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall  
568 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section  
569 27-19-44.2.

570 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
571 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
572 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
573 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
574 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
575 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,  
576 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
577 tag.

578 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license  
579 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and  
580 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by  
581 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license  
582 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving  
583 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and  
584 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee  
585 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be  
586 distributed proportionately in the same manner as funds from the  
587 sale of regular distinctive license tags issued under this  
588 section.





589           (7) In order for a distinctive license tag to be issued  
590 under this section, the provisions of Section 27-19-44(3) must be  
591 satisfied for the distinctive license tag before July 1, 2014.

592           **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
593 and after July 1, 2023.

