

By: Representative Byrd

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1014

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL PROMULGATE RULES
3 AND REGULATIONS TO AUTHORIZE COUNTIES TO RETAIN SURRENDERED MOTOR
4 VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS AND MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS THAT ARE
5 OUTDATED AND NO LONGER ISSUED AND TO SELL OR PROVIDE THE LICENSE
6 TAGS AT NO COST TO INDIVIDUALS; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH LICENSE TAGS
7 MAY NOT BE DISPLAYED ON ANY MOTOR VEHICLE OR USED FOR ANY MOTOR
8 VEHICLE LICENSE TAG PURPOSE UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW; TO
9 PROVIDE THAT A COUNTY SHALL MAINTAIN RECORDS FOR ALL LICENSE TAGS
10 RETAINED AND SOLD OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS FOR FIVE
11 YEARS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:

15 27-19-31. (1) The Department of Revenue is authorized and
16 directed to establish and maintain a vehicle registration renewal
17 system whereby the license tag attached upon a motor vehicle or
18 trailer may be issued for five (5) years with the approval of the
19 License Tag Commission, except for motor vehicles registered in
20 excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight, and
21 motor vehicles in a fleet registered under Section 27-19-66,
22 apportioned vehicles, rental and commercial trailers and buses,



23 which shall be issued for a period of time determined by the
24 Department of Revenue. During each intervening year of the period
25 for which license tags are issued, the Department of Revenue shall
26 issue up to two (2) license decals, in lieu of the license tags,
27 the month and year in which the license tag expires shall be
28 specified on one (1) of the decals so issued. Motor vehicles in a
29 corporate fleet registered under Section 27-19-66, trailers in a
30 fleet registered under Section 27-19-66.1, and apportioned
31 vehicles shall not be issued decals specifying the month and year
32 of expiration.

33 Any series of tags may be cancelled by the commissioner with
34 the approval of the License Tag Commission and a new series of
35 tags issued.

36 (2) The license decals issued in lieu of the license tags
37 shall indicate the month and the last two (2) figures of the year
38 for which such license shall expire. The license decals shall be
39 attached to the license tag of the motor vehicle or trailer, and
40 when so attached shall be deemed to be the license tag for the
41 ensuing registration year. The month and year decal shall be
42 attached in an upright position in the lower right corner of the
43 license tag. Decals specifying the month and year of expiration
44 shall not be required to be attached to license tags on motor
45 vehicles in a corporate fleet registered under Section 27-19-66,
46 trailers in a fleet registered under Section 27-19-66.1, or
47 apportioned vehicles.



48 Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the
49 registration year shall be a period of one (1) year commencing on
50 the first day of the month following the month in which the
51 vehicle was acquired. Beginning October 1, 1982, original
52 registrations of motor vehicles, except motor vehicles registered
53 in excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight,
54 apportioned vehicles and buses, may be made and shall be prorated
55 for a period of from six (6) to eleven (11) months according to
56 regulations established by the Department of Revenue to reduce a
57 disproportionate number of registrations for a particular month.
58 Beginning July 1, 1995, original registrations and renewal
59 registrations of motor vehicles in corporate fleets registered
60 under Section 27-19-66, shall be prorated according to regulations
61 established by the Department of Revenue so as to cause the
62 registration of such fleet motor vehicles to coincide with the
63 anniversary month for corporate fleets established by the
64 Department of Revenue. Beginning July 1, 2011, original
65 registrations and renewal registrations of trailers in trailer
66 fleets registered under Section 27-19-66.1 shall be prorated
67 according to regulations established by the Department of Revenue
68 so as to cause the registration of such trailers to coincide with
69 the anniversary month for trailer fleets established by the
70 Department of Revenue. Where a vehicle is registered for a period
71 less than twelve (12) months, the anniversary month shall be the
72 month of the expiration of the original license tag.



73 Beginning July 1, 1996, original registrations and renewal
74 registrations of motor vehicles in individual fleets registered
75 under Section 27-19-66 shall be prorated according to regulations
76 established by the Department of Revenue so as to cause the
77 registration of such fleet motor vehicles to coincide with the
78 anniversary month for individual fleets established by the county
79 tax collector. Where a vehicle is registered for a period less
80 than twelve (12) months, the anniversary month shall be the month
81 of the expiration of the original license tag.

82 The Department of Revenue, with the approval of the License
83 Tag Commission, shall so specify the area or areas on the license
84 tag where the license decals shall be attached. The number of the
85 license tag shall be written across its face, and the number of
86 the tag shall represent the registration number; and upon all the
87 tags for private passenger vehicles the word "MISSISSIPPI" shall
88 be written across the top of the tag in capital letters
89 sufficiently large to be easily read, but upon all other tags such
90 word may be abbreviated. The number of the license tag shall not
91 exceed seven (7) letters, numbers or a combination of such letters
92 and numbers. Also, on all tags sold and issued, an appropriate
93 place will be provided thereon to place license decals indicating
94 the expiration date of the tag. For the purposes of this section
95 and Section 27-19-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, the term "decal,"
96 "decals" or "license decal" shall mean a tab, sticker or other
97 similar device attached to a license tag which validates same for



98 a stated period of time. One (1) license tag and up to two (2)
99 license decals shall be furnished for all vehicles and shall be
100 fastened immovably twelve (12) inches or more above the ground, at
101 the rear of the vehicle under or over the rear light, with the
102 number in upright position so that it will be plainly visible and
103 legible at all times, and at night at a distance of sixty (60)
104 feet. In the case of tractors or other motor vehicles drawing or
105 pulling trailers, semitrailers or farm implements, the tag shall
106 be fastened upon such vehicle twelve (12) inches or more above the
107 ground, upon the front or back of such vehicle, with the number in
108 an upright position. Such license plate, all characters and any
109 legally affixed decals shall not be defaced, covered or obstructed
110 from view by any object, decal, sticker, paint, marking or license
111 plate bracket or holder. Any person who defaces, covers or
112 obstructs any portion of a license tag with any sticker,
113 decoration, paint, marking, license plate bracket or holder or any
114 other thing or device, in such a manner that the characters and
115 any legally affixed decals on the tag cannot be read, shall be
116 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by
117 a fine of not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). However, it
118 shall not be unlawful for the county name to be partially or
119 completely obstructed from view by any object, decal, sticker or
120 license plate bracket or holder. Unless the license tag with
121 current decals is fastened to the vehicle as herein provided, the
122 said vehicle shall be regarded as operating without a license tag,



and the owner or operator shall be liable for the penalties herein provided.

In addition to the above requirements, license tags for private passenger vehicles shall have a county designation thereon referencing the name of the county in which such vehicle is registered.

Law enforcement officers of this state shall remove from a motor vehicle or trailer any license tag and/or decals which are so defaced that proper identification cannot be reasonably made. The officer shall issue to the driver of such vehicle a tag permit which shall be valid for a period of five (5) days. Each person receiving such tag permit shall purchase, within five (5) days from the date of the issuance of the permit, a new tag and/or decals for the fee set forth in Section 27-19-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a substitute tag.

Any person who has a license tag or decals on a vehicle which may be so defaced that proper identification cannot be reasonably made may remove such and purchase another license tag and/or decals for the same fee required for a substitute tag. If any license tag shall deteriorate due to age so that identification cannot be reasonably made, the owner may surrender such tag to the issuing authority and be issued a new tag and like decals at no cost.

(3) The Department of Revenue is authorized to promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to govern the use and display of



license decals and to publish a summary thereof which shall be available to state officials and the public upon request.

(4) The department shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to authorize counties to: (a) retain surrendered license tags and license tags that are outdated and no longer issued and (b) sell or otherwise provide retained license tags at no cost to individuals. A county must remove the license decals from a license tag before selling or otherwise providing the license tag to an individual under this subsection. Except as otherwise provided in Section 27-19-56.11, such license tags may not be displayed on any motor vehicle and may not be used for any motor vehicle license tag purpose. Funds received by a county from the sale or other transfer of license tags under this subsection shall be deposited into the county general fund. A county shall maintain records for all license tags retained and all license tags sold or otherwise provided to individuals for five (5) years.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2023.

