

By: Senator(s) England

To: Veterans and Military  
Affairs; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2620

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE A FREE LIFETIME MOTOR VEHICLE OR MOTORCYCLE LICENSE  
3 TAG FOR 100% DISABLED VETERANS; TO REVISE THE DISABILITY RATING  
4 REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCOUNTED MOTOR VEHICLE AND MOTORCYCLE LICENSE  
5 PLATES AND TAGS AUTHORIZED FOR DISABLED VETERANS; TO AMEND SECTION  
6 27-19-56.444, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND  
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 27-19-53. (1) (a) (i) Any legal resident of the State of  
12 Mississippi who is a veteran of service in the Armed Forces of the  
13 United States, and who is rated as having one hundred percent  
14 (100%) permanent service-connected disability by the Veterans'  
15 Administration or United States Department of Veterans Affairs is  
16 privileged to purchase under this subsection one (1) lifetime  
17 motor vehicle license plate or tag and/or one (1) lifetime  
18 motorcycle license plate or tag in his or her county of legal  
19 residence free-of-charge.



20 ( \* \* \* ii) Any legal resident of the State of  
21 Mississippi who is a veteran of service in the Armed Forces of the  
22 United States, and who is rated as having \* \* \* between  
23 seventy-five and ninety-nine percent (75% - 99%) nonpermanent  
24 service-connected disability by the Veterans' Administration or  
25 United States Department of Veterans Affairs is privileged to  
26 purchase annually under this subsection two (2) motor vehicle  
27 license plates or tags in his or her county of legal residence,  
28 for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) in total cost for each plate or  
29 tag, regardless of make or model of motor vehicle. The  
30 registration year of such motor vehicle shall commence the first  
31 day of the month in which application for registration is made, as  
32 provided in Section 27-19-31. In order for a person who is rated  
33 as having at least seventy-five percent (75%) nonpermanent  
34 service-connected disability to renew a license plate or tag  
35 issued under this section, the person must provide an updated  
36 benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans  
37 Affairs indicating that the person's rating has not been adjusted  
38 to less than seventy-five percent (75%) permanent  
39 service-connected disability.

40 ( \* \* \* iii) Any legal resident of the State of  
41 Mississippi who is a veteran of service in the Armed Forces of the  
42 United States, and who is rated as having \* \* \* between  
43 seventy-five and ninety-nine percent (75% - 99%) nonpermanent  
44 service-connected disability by the Veterans' Administration or



45 United States Department of Veterans Affairs is privileged to  
46 purchase annually under this subsection one (1) motorcycle license  
47 plate or tag in his or her county of legal residence, for the sum  
48 of One Dollar (\$1.00) in total cost for each plate or tag. The  
49 registration year of such motorcycle shall commence the first day  
50 of the month in which application for registration is made, as  
51 provided in Section 27-19-31. In order for a person who is rated  
52 as having at least seventy-five percent (75%) nonpermanent  
53 service-connected disability to renew a license plate or tag  
54 issued under this section, the person must provide an updated  
55 benefits letter from the United States Department of Veterans  
56 Affairs indicating that the person's rating has not been adjusted  
57 to less than seventy-five percent (75%) nonpermanent  
58 service-connected disability.

59 (b) Not more than two (2) such motor vehicle license  
60 plates or tags shall be issued under this subsection to each such  
61 qualified veteran. Not more than one (1) such motorcycle license  
62 plate or tag shall be issued under this subsection to each such  
63 qualified veteran.

64 (c) This section pertains only to taxes or plates for  
65 private passenger motor vehicles or pickup trucks or motorcycles.

66 (d) Proof of ownership of a particular motor vehicle or  
67 motorcycle for which a license plate or tag is requested must be  
68 shown at time of application for such plate or tag.



69           (e) Vehicles and motorcycles owned by such veterans are  
70 exempt under this subsection from all ad valorem and privilege  
71 taxes; however, the surviving spouse of a deceased person who was  
72 issued a license plate or tag under this subsection shall be  
73 entitled to apply for or retain a license tag issued under this  
74 subsection and may continue annually to renew registration for two  
75 (2) motor vehicle license plates or tags and one (1) motorcycle  
76 license plate or tag under this subsection for as long as the  
77 spouse remains unmarried. In addition, if a deceased person who  
78 was eligible to be issued a license plate or tag under this  
79 subsection did not apply for or was not issued a license plate or  
80 tag, the surviving spouse of such deceased person shall be  
81 entitled to apply for and be issued a license plate or tag under  
82 this subsection and may continue annually to renew registration  
83 for two (2) motor vehicle license plates or tags and one (1)  
84 motorcycle license tag or plate under this subsection for as long  
85 as the spouse remains unmarried. At the time of application or  
86 renewal registration, a surviving spouse who desires to retain a  
87 distinctive plate or tag issued under this subsection shall file  
88 with the county tax collector a sworn statement that the spouse is  
89 unmarried. Any such vehicle or motorcycle when so registered  
90 shall be exempt from all ad valorem and privilege taxes.

91           (2) Any person who is entitled to obtain license tags under  
92 subsection (1) of this section may be issued one (1) additional  
93 such license tag for any other vehicle registered in his or her



94 name upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad  
95 valorem taxes and registration fees as otherwise prescribed by law  
96 for the particular vehicle.

97 (3) The Department of Revenue is directed to furnish each  
98 veteran obtaining a license tag under this section an emblem,  
99 which the veteran shall attach securely to the tag, showing that  
100 the tag was issued to a disabled American veteran.

101 (4) A license issued under this section shall not be  
102 transferable to any other person.

103 (5) Any person evading or violating any of the provisions of  
104 this section, or attempting to secure benefits under this section  
105 to which he is not entitled, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,  
106 upon conviction, shall be fined not less than One Thousand Dollars  
107 (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned in the county jail for not less than  
108 ninety (90) days, or both.

109 (6) From and after July 1, 2022, the special tag authorized  
110 under this section shall bear the name and emblem of each branch  
111 of the United States Armed Forces.

112 **SECTION 2.** Section 27-19-56.444, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
113 is amended as follows:

114 27-19-56.444. (1) Any legal resident of the State of  
115 Mississippi who is a veteran of service in the Armed Forces of the  
116 United States and is rated as having service-connected disability  
117 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but who is  
118 not rated as having one hundred percent (100%) permanent



119 service-connected disability or at least seventy-five percent  
120 (75%) nonpermanent service-connected disability by such  
121 department, is privileged to obtain annually under this section a  
122 distinctive license tag for any motor vehicle registered in his  
123 name upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad  
124 valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law for  
125 private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other  
126 noncommercial motor vehicles. The distinctive license tag so  
127 issued shall be of such color and design as the Department of  
128 Revenue may prescribe and shall consist of such letters or  
129 numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license  
130 tag or plate. The registration year of such motor vehicle shall  
131 commence the first day of the month in which application for  
132 registration is made, as provided in Section 27-19-31.

133 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized  
134 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms  
135 prescribed by the Department of Revenue. Proof of ownership of a  
136 particular motor vehicle for which a license tag is requested must  
137 be shown at time of application for such tag.

138 (3) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as  
139 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under  
140 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the  
141 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under  
142 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license  
143 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,



144 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license  
145 tag. A license tag issued under this section shall not be  
146 transferable to any other person.

147           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
148 and after its passage.

