

By: Senator(s) DeLano

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2841

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO PROVIDE THAT AN OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE OR NONCOMMERCIAL
 3 TRAILER MAY CHOOSE A REGULAR LICENSE TAG WITH A BLACK BACKGROUND
 4 AND A WHITE PINSTRIPE BORDER, WITH "MISSISSIPPI" PRINTED AT THE
 5 TOP AND THE NAME OF THE COUNTY PRINTED AT THE BOTTOM; TO PRESCRIBE
 6 AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH LICENSE TAG; TO PROVIDE
 7 FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE COLLECTED FROM THE
 8 ISSUANCE OF SUCH LICENSE TAG; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

12 27-19-31. (1) The Department of Revenue is authorized and
 13 directed to establish and maintain a vehicle registration renewal
 14 system whereby the license tag attached upon a motor vehicle or
 15 trailer may be issued for five (5) years with the approval of the
 16 License Tag Commission, except for motor vehicles registered in
 17 excess of ten thousand (10,000) pounds gross vehicle weight, and
 18 motor vehicles in a fleet registered under Section 27-19-66,
 19 apportioned vehicles, rental and commercial trailers and buses,
 20 which shall be issued for a period of time determined by the
 21 Department of Revenue. During each intervening year of the period



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

30 Any series of tags may be cancelled by the commissioner with
31 the approval of the License Tag Commission and a new series of
32 tags issued.

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

45 Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the
46 registration year shall be a period of one (1) year commencing on



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

70 Beginning July 1, 1996, original registrations and renewal
71 registrations of motor vehicles in individual fleets registered



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

79 The Department of Revenue, with the approval of the License
80 Tag Commission, shall so specify the area or areas on the license
81 tag where the license decals shall be attached. The number of the
82 license tag shall be written across its face, and the number of
83 the tag shall represent the registration number; and upon all the
84 tags for private passenger vehicles the word "MISSISSIPPI" shall
85 be written across the top of the tag in capital letters
86 sufficiently large to be easily read, but upon all other tags such
87 word may be abbreviated. The number of the license tag shall not
88 exceed seven (7) letters, numbers or a combination of such letters
89 and numbers. Also, on all tags sold and issued, an appropriate
90 place will be provided thereon to place license decals indicating
91 the expiration date of the tag. For the purposes of this section
92 and Section 27-19-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, the term "decal,"
93 "decals" or "license decal" shall mean a tab, sticker or other
94 similar device attached to a license tag which validates same for
95 a stated period of time. One (1) license tag and up to two (2)
96 license decals shall be furnished for all vehicles and shall be



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



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

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

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

143 (b) Beginning July 1, 2023, an owner of a motor vehicle
144 or noncommercial trailer may choose a tag with a black background
145 and a white pinstripe border. "Mississippi" shall be printed at
146 the top, and the name of the county shall be printed at the



147 bottom. The application and the additional fee of Thirty-eight
148 Dollars and Twenty-five Cents (\$38.25), less Two Dollars (\$2.00)
149 to be retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to the
150 Department of Revenue within seven (7) days of the date the
151 application is made. The remaining Thirty-six Dollars and
152 Twenty-five Cents (\$36.25) of the additional fee shall be
153 deposited to the credit of the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire
154 Fighters Death Benefits Trust Fund established in Section 45-2-1.
155 In all other respects, tags issued under this paragraph (b) shall
156 follow the guidelines for tags issued under paragraph (a) of this
157 subsection.

158 (3) The Department of Revenue is authorized to promulgate
159 appropriate rules and regulations to govern the use and display of
160 license decals and to publish a summary thereof which shall be
161 available to state officials and the public upon request.

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

