

By: Representative Cockerham

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1199

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.535, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 2 1972, TO REAUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
 3 LICENSE TAGS TO SUPPORTERS OF WILDLIFE MISSISSIPPI; TO AMEND
 4 SECTION 27-19-44, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXEMPT THE
 5 DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAG AUTHORIZED TO BE ISSUED TO
 6 SUPPORTERS OF WILDLIFE MISSISSIPPI FROM THE REQUIREMENT THAT A
 7 CERTAIN NUMBER OF SUCH TAGS MUST BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO ISSUANCE;
 8 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-56.535, Mississippi Code of 1972,
 11 is amended as follows:

12 27-19-56.535. (1) Beginning with any registration year
 13 commencing on or after July 1, * * * 2024, any owner of a motor
 14 vehicle who is a resident of this state, upon payment of the road
 15 and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees
 16 as prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
 17 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
 18 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
 19 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for any motor
 20 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a
 21 supporter of Wildlife Mississippi. The distinctive license tags



22 so issued shall be of such color and design as the Department of
23 Revenue, with the advice of Wildlife Mississippi, may prescribe
24 and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be
25 necessary to distinguish each license tag.

26 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
27 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
28 prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The application and the
29 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
30 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
31 shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis
32 as prescribed by the department. The portion of the additional
33 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the
34 county general fund.

35 (3) * * * Any person applying for a distinctive license tag
36 under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount of
37 Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag applied
38 for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other
39 taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of
40 time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established license
41 tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the
42 original application is made for a distinctive license tag under
43 this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal
44 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license
45 tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license
46 tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.



47 (4) The Department of Revenue shall deposit all fees into
48 the State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each
49 month, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the State
50 Treasurer the total fees collected under this section from the
51 issuance of the distinctive license tags issued under this
52 section. The State Treasurer shall distribute such collections as
53 follows:

54 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
55 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
56 section shall be distributed to Wildlife Mississippi.

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

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

66 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
67 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
68 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
69 27-19-44.2.

70 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
71 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under



72 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
73 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
74 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
75 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
76 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
77 tag.

78 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
79 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
80 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
81 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
82 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
83 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
84 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
85 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
86 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
87 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

88 **SECTION 2.** Section 27-19-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
89 amended as follows:

90 27-19-44. (1) For any distinctive license tag or plate
91 authorized by the Legislature from and after July 1, 2000, through
92 June 30, 2002, or authorized by Sections 27-19-56.37 and
93 27-19-56.55, the requirements of this subsection must be met
94 before the Department of Revenue may prepare or issue any such
95 license tag or plate. The organization or other entity for which
96 the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate



97 must submit proof satisfactory to the Department of Revenue that
98 at least one hundred (100) of such license tags or plates will be
99 purchased and must deposit with the department an amount necessary
100 to purchase one hundred (100) of such license tags or plates. The
101 organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized
102 the distinctive license tag or plate must satisfy the requirements
103 of this subsection (1) within two (2) years after the effective
104 date of the law authorizing the license tag or plate in order to
105 permit the license tag or plate to be prepared and issued.

106 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1) of this
107 section, for any distinctive license tag or plate authorized by
108 the Legislature from and after July 1, 2002, through June 30,
109 2007, the requirements of this subsection must be met before the
110 Department of Revenue may prepare or issue any such license tag or
111 plate. The organization or other entity for which the Legislature
112 authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must submit proof
113 satisfactory to the Department of Revenue that at least two
114 hundred (200) of such license tags or plates will be purchased and
115 must deposit with the department an amount necessary to purchase
116 two hundred (200) of such license tags or plates. The
117 organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized
118 the distinctive license tag or plate must satisfy the requirements
119 of this subsection (2) within three (3) years after the effective
120 date of the law authorizing the license tag or plate in order to
121 permit the license tag or plate to be prepared and issued.



122 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, Section
123 27-19-56.7, Section 27-19-56.56, Section 27-19-56.59, Section
124 27-19-56.85 or Section 27-19-56.94, for any distinctive license
125 tag or plate authorized or reauthorized by the Legislature from
126 and after July 1, 2007, the following requirements must be met
127 before the Department of Revenue may prepare or issue any such
128 license tag or plate:

129 (a) The organization or other entity for which the
130 Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must
131 submit proof satisfactory to the Department of Revenue that at
132 least three hundred (300) of such license tags or plates will be
133 purchased and must deposit with the department an amount necessary
134 to purchase three hundred (300) of such license tags or plates.

135 (b) The organization or other entity for which the
136 Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must
137 satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3)
138 within three (3) years after the effective date of the law
139 authorizing the license tag or plate in order to permit the
140 license tag or plate to be prepared and issued. This paragraph
141 (b) shall not apply to distinctive tags or plates issued under
142 Section 27-19-56.154.

143 (4) Any distinctive license tag authorized under Sections
144 27-19-56.186, 27-19-56.203 and 27-19-56.315 must meet the
145 requirements of this subsection before the Department of Revenue
146 may prepare or issue any such license tag or plate. The



147 organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized
148 the distinctive license tag or plate must submit proof
149 satisfactory to the Department of Revenue that at least one
150 hundred (100) of such license tags or plates will be purchased and
151 must deposit with the department an amount necessary to purchase
152 one hundred (100) of such license tags or plates. The
153 organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized
154 the distinctive license tag or plate must satisfy the requirements
155 of this subsection (4) within three (3) years after the effective
156 date of the law authorizing the license tag or plate in order to
157 permit the license tag or plate to be prepared and issued.

158 (5) The distinctive license tags authorized under Section
159 27-19-56.108 must meet the requirements of this subsection before
160 the Department of Revenue may prepare or issue any such license
161 tag or plate. The organization or other entity for which the
162 Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must
163 submit proof satisfactory to the Department of Revenue that at
164 least two hundred (200) of such license tags or plates will be
165 purchased and must deposit with the department an amount necessary
166 to purchase two hundred (200) of such license tags or plates.

167 (6) If the organization or other entity for which the
168 Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate meets
169 the requirements of subsection (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this
170 section, the Department of Revenue shall prepare and issue the
171 distinctive license tag or plate.



172 (7) The Department of Revenue shall review the number of
173 distinctive or special license tags or plates issued pursuant to
174 this chapter during the period for the license tag or plate
175 series. If the number of any distinctive or special license tag
176 or plate issued pursuant to this chapter falls below one hundred
177 (100) in the last year of the license tag or plate series, the
178 distinctive or special license tag or plate shall be discontinued
179 at the end of the period for the license tag or plate series.

180 (8) If a distinctive or special license tag or plate is
181 discontinued under subsection (7) of this section, the
182 organization or other entity for which the license tag or plate
183 was discontinued may prepare a distinctive or special license tag
184 or plate decal. The distinctive or special license tag or plate
185 decal shall be of such size, color and design as may be agreed
186 upon by the organization or other entity and the Department of
187 Revenue. However, the Department of Revenue shall have final
188 approval of the size, color and design of the decal. The
189 distinctive or special license tag or plate decals shall be
190 prepared and sold by the organization or other entity, and the
191 proceeds derived from the sale of such decals shall be retained by
192 the organization or other entity for any use deemed appropriate by
193 the organization or other entity.

194 (9) The provisions of this section shall not apply to
195 distinctive or special license tags or plates:



196 (a) Which are issued under Section 27-19-45, 27-19-46,
197 27-19-47.1, 27-19-47.2, 27-19-48, 27-19-49, 27-19-53, 27-19-55,
198 27-19-56, 27-19-56.1, 27-19-56.2, 27-19-56.3, 27-19-56.5,
199 27-19-56.6, 27-19-56.9, 27-19-56.11, 27-19-56.12, 27-19-56.13,
200 27-19-56.40, 27-19-56.62, 27-19-56.69, 27-19-56.79, 27-19-56.90,
201 27-19-56.125, 27-19-56.127, 27-19-56.137, 27-19-56.140,
202 27-19-56.162, 27-19-56.187, 27-19-56.199, 27-19-56.205,
203 27-19-56.239, 27-19-56.292, 27-19-56.318, 27-19-56.379,
204 27-19-56.425, 27-19-56.466, 27-19-56.489, 27-19-56.522(1)(a),
205 27-19-56.524, 27-19-56.535 or 27-19-56.557; or

206 (b) For which no additional fee is required to be paid.

207 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
208 and after July 1, 2024.

