

By: Representative Thompson

To: Transportation

## HOUSE BILL NO. 239

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 SPECIFY THE REQUIRED AND OPTIONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO BE  
3 INCLUDED ON DRIVER'S LICENSES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING  
4 THE OPTION TO INDICATE THE LICENSEE'S BLOOD TYPE IF MEDICAL  
5 DOCUMENTATION VERIFYING SUCH IS PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF LICENSE'S  
6 ISSUANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-1-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 63-1-35. (1) (a) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall  
11 prescribe the form of license issued pursuant to this article  
12 which shall, among other features, include a driver's license  
13 number assigned by the Department of Public Safety. A licensee  
14 shall list his social security number with the department which  
15 shall cross reference the social security number with the driver's  
16 license number for purposes of identification. Additionally, each  
17 license shall bear a full-face color photograph of the licensee in  
18 such form that the license and the photograph cannot be separated.  
19 The photograph shall be taken so that one (1) exposure will  
20 photograph the applicant and the application simultaneously on the



21 same film. The department shall use a process in the issuance of  
22 a license with a color photograph that shall prevent as nearly as  
23 possible any alteration, counterfeiting, duplication,  
24 reproduction, forging or modification of the license or the  
25 superimposition of a photograph without ready detection. The  
26 photograph shall be replaced by the department at the time of  
27 renewal. Drivers' licenses, including photographs appearing  
28 thereon, may be renewed by electronic means according to rules and  
29 regulations promulgated by the commissioner in conformity to  
30 Section 27-104-33.

31 (b) In addition to the information required for  
32 applications for license or permit under paragraph (a) of this  
33 section, the commissioner:

34 (i) Shall require specific identifying information  
35 to be indicated on the front face of driver's licenses by the  
36 department at the time of issuance, including, but not limited to,  
37 the licensee's:

- 38 1. Date of birth;
- 39 2. Sex;
- 40 3. Race;
- 41 4. Natural eye color;
- 42 5. Natural hair color;
- 43 6. Weight;
- 44 7. Height;
- 45 8. Address of residence; and



(ii) Shall authorize any licensee who, in his or her discretion, desires to have included on the reverse side of his or her driver's license an indication of:

1. A preference to be an organ donor; or
2. The specification of his or her blood type, provided that at the time of issuance or renewal of the license, medical documentation is presented verifying the licensee's blood type.

(2) The commissioner shall prescribe the form of license issued pursuant to this article to licensees who are not United States citizens and who do not possess a social security number issued by the United States government. The license of such persons shall include a number and/or other identifying features.

(3) Any new, renewal or duplicate driver's license, temporary driving permit or commercial driver's license issued to a person required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 45-33-25 shall bear a designation identifying the licensee or permittee as a sex offender.

(4) The commissioner is authorized to provide the new, renewal or duplicate driver's license, temporary driving permit or commercial driver's license to any honorably discharged veteran as defined in Title 38 of the United States Code, and such license or permit shall exhibit the letters "Vet" or any other mark identifying the person as a veteran. The veteran requesting the "Vet" designation shall present his DD-214, Military Retiree



71 Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
72 Medical Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans  
73 Affairs Identification Card or National Guard Form NGB 22. The  
74 veteran requesting the "Vet" designation may present his DD-214,  
75 Military Retiree Identification Card, United States Department of  
76 Veterans Affairs Medical Identification Card, United States  
77 Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card or National  
78 Guard Form NGB 22 in person at the Mississippi Department of  
79 Public Safety Driver's License Station.

80 (5) Not later than July 1, 2021, the commissioner shall  
81 develop and implement a driver's license or driving permit in  
82 electronic format as an additional option for license or permit  
83 holders. Acceptable electronic formats include display of  
84 electronic images on a cellular phone or any other type of  
85 electronic device.

86 (6) If false documents are provided by an individual for  
87 purposes of obtaining a veteran driver's license, such action  
88 shall be considered fraudulent use of identity under Section  
89 97-19-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be punishable, upon  
90 conviction, as a felony pursuant to the provisions of that  
91 section.

92 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
93 and after July 1, 2025.

