

By: Representative Fondren

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 804

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.246, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO REAUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
3 LICENSE TAGS TO SUPPORTERS OF THE PASCAGOULA HIGH SCHOOL; TO
4 EXEMPT THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS FOR
5 THE HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE PRESALE REQUIREMENT AND THREE-YEAR
6 EXPIRATION FOR REAUTHORIZATION SHOULD NO DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
7 LICENSE TAGS BE ISSUED FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL; TO AMEND SECTION
8 27-19-44, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR
9 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-56.246, Mississippi Code of 1972,
12 is amended as follows:

13 27-19-56.246. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
14 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
15 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
16 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 Pascagoula High School. The distinctive license tags



so issued shall be of such color and design as the Department of Revenue, with the advice of the principal of Pascagoula High School, may prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

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

(3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or after July 1, * * * 2025, any person applying for a distinctive license tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the original application is made for a distinctive license tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive



license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

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

(a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall be distributed to the Pascagoula Athletic Foundation.

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

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

(d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall



be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section 27-19-44.2.

(5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section, which will expire the same month and year as the regular license tag.

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

(7) This section shall be exempt from the minimum presale and expiration for reauthorizations requirements under the provisions of Section 27-19-44(3).

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



27-19-44. (1) For any distinctive license tag or plate authorized by the Legislature from and after July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2002, or authorized by Sections 27-19-56.37 and 27-19-56.55, the requirements of this subsection must be met before the department may prepare or issue any such license tag or plate. The organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must submit proof satisfactory to the department that at least one hundred (100) of such license tags or plates will be purchased and must deposit with the department an amount necessary to purchase one hundred (100) of such license tags or plates. The organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must satisfy the requirements of this subsection (1) within two (2) years after the effective date of the law authorizing the license tag or plate in order to permit the license tag or plate to be prepared and issued.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1) of this section, for any distinctive license tag or plate authorized by the Legislature from and after July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2007, the requirements of this subsection must be met before the department may prepare or issue any such license tag or plate. The organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must submit proof satisfactory to the department that at least two hundred (200) of such license tags or plates will be purchased and must deposit



122 with the department an amount necessary to purchase two hundred
123 (200) of such license tags or plates. The organization or other
124 entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive
125 license tag or plate must satisfy the requirements of this
126 subsection (2) within three (3) years after the effective date of
127 the law authorizing the license tag or plate in order to permit
128 the license tag or plate to be prepared and issued.

129 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, Section
130 27-19-56.7, Section 27-19-56.56, Section 27-19-56.59, Section
131 27-19-56.85 or Section 27-19-56.94, for any distinctive license
132 tag or plate authorized or reauthorized by the Legislature from
133 and after July 1, 2007, the following requirements must be met
134 before the department may prepare or issue any such license tag or
135 plate:

136 (a) The organization or other entity for which the
137 Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must
138 submit proof satisfactory to the department that at least three
139 hundred (300) of such license tags or plates will be purchased and
140 must deposit with the department an amount necessary to purchase
141 three hundred (300) of such license tags or plates.

142 (b) The organization or other entity for which the
143 Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must
144 satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection (3)
145 within three (3) years after the effective date of the law
146 authorizing the license tag or plate in order to permit the



license tag or plate to be prepared and issued. This paragraph
(b) shall not apply to distinctive tags or plates issued under
Section 27-19-56.154 and 27-19-56.246.

(4) Any distinctive license tag authorized under Sections
27-19-56.186, 27-19-56.203 and 27-19-56.315 must meet the
requirements of this subsection before the department may prepare
or issue any such license tag or plate. The organization or other
entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive
license tag or plate must submit proof satisfactory to the
department that at least one hundred (100) of such license tags or
plates will be purchased and must deposit with the department an
amount necessary to purchase one hundred (100) of such license
tags or plates. The organization or other entity for which the
Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must
satisfy the requirements of this subsection (4) within three (3)
years after the effective date of the law authorizing the license
tag or plate in order to permit the license tag or plate to be
prepared and issued.

(5) The distinctive license tags authorized under Section
27-19-56.108 must meet the requirements of this subsection before
the department may prepare or issue any such license tag or plate.
The organization or other entity for which the Legislature
authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must submit proof
satisfactory to the department that at least two hundred (200) of
such license tags or plates will be purchased and must deposit



with the department an amount necessary to purchase two hundred (200) of such license tags or plates.

(6) Any distinctive license tag authorized under Section 27-19-56.549(1)(l), (n) or (z) must meet the requirements of this subsection before the department may prepare or issue any such license tag or plate. The organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must submit proof satisfactory to the department that at least one hundred (100) of such license tags or plates will be purchased and must deposit with the department an amount necessary to purchase one hundred (100) of such license tags or plates. The organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate must satisfy the requirements of this subsection (4) within three (3) years after the effective date of the law authorizing the license tag or plate in order to permit the license tag or plate to be prepared and issued. Until a total of three hundred (300) such tags are sold, the department shall deposit the proceeds of the additional fee into the License Tag Acquisition Fund created in Section 27-19-179. After three hundred (300) tags are sold, the proceeds of the additional fee shall be distributed as provided in the section authorizing the issuance of the applicable special tag. The department may promulgate rules and regulations to administer this subsection.

(7) If the organization or other entity for which the Legislature authorized the distinctive license tag or plate meets



the requirements of subsection (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section, the department shall prepare and issue the distinctive license tag or plate.

(8) The department shall review the number of distinctive or special license tags or plates issued pursuant to this chapter during the period for the license tag or plate series. If the number of any distinctive or special license tag or plate issued pursuant to this chapter falls below one hundred (100) in the last year of the license tag or plate series, the distinctive or special license tag or plate shall be discontinued at the end of the period for the license tag or plate series.

(9) If a distinctive or special license tag or plate is discontinued under subsection (7) of this section, the organization or other entity for which the license tag or plate was discontinued may prepare a distinctive or special license tag or plate decal. The distinctive or special license tag or plate decal shall be of such size, color and design as may be agreed upon by the organization or other entity and the department. However, the department shall have final approval of the size, color and design of the decal. The distinctive or special license tag or plate decals shall be prepared and sold by the organization or other entity, and the proceeds derived from the sale of such decals shall be retained by the organization or other entity for any use deemed appropriate by the organization or other entity.



221 (10) The provisions of this section shall not apply to
222 distinctive or special license tags or plates:

223 (a) Which are issued under Section 27-19-45, 27-19-46,
224 27-19-47.1, 27-19-47.2, 27-19-48, 27-19-49, 27-19-53, 27-19-55,
225 27-19-56, 27-19-56.1, 27-19-56.2, 27-19-56.3, 27-19-56.5,
226 27-19-56.6, 27-19-56.9, 27-19-56.11, 27-19-56.12, 27-19-56.13,
227 27-19-56.40, 27-19-56.62, 27-19-56.69, 27-19-56.79, 27-19-56.90,
228 27-19-56.125, 27-19-56.127, 27-19-56.137, 27-19-56.140,
229 27-19-56.162, 27-19-56.187, 27-19-56.199, 27-19-56.205,
230 27-19-56.239, 27-19-56.292, 27-19-56.318, 27-19-56.379,
231 27-19-56.425, 27-19-56.466, 27-19-56.489, 27-19-56.522(1)(a),
232 27-19-56.524 or 27-19-56.557; or

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

234 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
235 and after July 1, 2025.

