

By: Representatives Eaton, Pierce

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 618

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION 27-19-56.32, MISSISSIPPI
 2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE
 3 TAGS IN SUPPORT OF MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR
 4 THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH
 5 LICENSE TAGS; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE FEES COLLECTED FOR
 6 SUCH DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE
 7 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE MISSISSIPPI FIRE
 8 FIGHTER'S MEMORIAL BURN CENTER FUND AND THE STATE HIGHWAY FUND;
 9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section
 12 27-19-56.32, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 27-19-56.32. (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 each motor
 20 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a
 21 supporter of Mississippi public education. The distinctive
 22 license tags so issued shall be of such color and design as the
 23 State Tax Commission, with the advice of the State Board of
 24 Education, may prescribe, and shall consist of such letters or
 25 numbers, or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license
 26 tag.

27 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
 28 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
 29 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the
 30 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less



31 five percent (5%) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
32 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission within seven (7)
33 days of the date the application is made. The portion of the
34 additional fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited
35 into the county general fund.

36 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
37 after July 1, 2001, any person applying for a distinctive license
38 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
39 of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each distinctive license tag applied
40 for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other
41 taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a period of
42 time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established license tag
43 year. The additional fee is due and payable at the time the
44 original application is made for a distinctive license tag under
45 this section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal
46 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license
47 tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license
48 tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

49 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
50 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
51 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
52 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
53 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
54 Treasurer shall distribute an amount equal to Seven Dollars
55 (\$7.00) of the additional fees collected for each such distinctive
56 license tag issued under this section to the State General Fund,
57 and the remainder of such additional fees collected shall be
58 distributed by the State Treasurer as follows:

59 (a) Thirty-seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$37.50) of
60 each additional fee collected on distinctive license tags issued
61 pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the Public
62 Education Support Fund created under Section 2 of House Bill No.
63 _____, 2001 Regular Session.



64 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
65 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
66 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn
67 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

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

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

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

92 SECTION 2. (1) There is established in the State Treasury a
93 fund known as the "Mississippi Public Education Support Fund"
94 (hereinafter referred to as "fund"). The fund shall consist of
95 monies required to be deposited therein under Section 1 of House
96 Bill No. _____, 2001, Regular Session, and such other monies as the



97 Legislature may authorize or direct to be deposited into the fund.
98 Monies in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, may be
99 expended by the Mississippi Department of Education to develop,
100 implement and administer reading, character education and drop-out
101 prevention programs. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at
102 the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General
103 Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the fund shall be
104 deposited to the credit of the fund.

105 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
106 and after July 1, 2001.

