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To: Finance

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2026

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL "CHOOSE LIFE" MOTOR VEHICLE
2 LICENSE TAG; TO PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE FEE CHARGED FOR SUCH
3 TAG SHALL BE DISBURSED TO THE CHOOSE LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; TO
4 PRESCRIBE THE MANNER IN WHICH FUNDS DERIVED FROM SUCH FEE MAY BE
5 SPENT BY THE CHOOSE LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
9 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
10 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
11 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
12 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
13 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (4) of this
14 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor
15 vehicle registered in his name, which shall be produced in such
16 color and design as the State Tax Commission, with the advice of
17 the Choose Life Advisory Committee, may prescribe. The words
18 "Choose Life" shall be centered at the bottom of the license tag.
19 The State Tax Commission shall prescribe such letters or numbers,
20 or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

21 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
22 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
23 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the
24 additional fee imposed under subsection (4) of this section, less
25 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
26 remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as
27 prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee
28 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
29 general fund.



30 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
31 after July 1, 2002, any person applying for a distinctive license
32 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
33 of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each distinctive license tag
34 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
35 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
36 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
37 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
38 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
39 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
40 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
41 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
42 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
43 collector.

44 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
45 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
46 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected
47 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute
48 such collections as follows:

49 (a) Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of each additional fee
50 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
51 section shall be disbursed to the Choose Life Advisory Committee
52 to be used as provided for in subsection (5) of this section.

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

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



62 (5) (a) Funds disbursed to the Choose Life Advisory
63 Committee under this section shall be used by such committee as
64 follows:

65 (i) Seventy percent (70%) shall be used to provide
66 for the material needs of pregnant women who are committed to
67 placing their children for adoption, including clothing, housing,
68 medical care, food, utilities and transportation;

69 (ii) The remaining funds may only be used for
70 adoption, counseling, training or advertising.

71 (b) Funds disbursed to the Choose Life Advisory
72 Committee under this section shall not be used for administrative
73 expenses, legal expenses, capital expenditures, attempting to
74 influence any legislation or any political campaign on behalf or
75 in opposition to any candidate for public office.

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

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



94 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after July 1, 2002.

