

By: Representatives Moak, Scott (17th),
Livingston

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 520

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE LICENSE TAGS
2 TO MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS; AND FOR
3 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle, who is a
6 member of the Mississippi Association of Realtors, upon complying
7 with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing
8 of motor vehicles, and upon payment of the road and bridge
9 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
10 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
11 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
12 an additional annual fee in the amount provided in subsection (3),
13 shall be issued a special license tag which displays the blue and
14 gold REALTOR trademark logo affixed to the left side of the
15 license tag.

16 (2) Application for the special license tag shall be made to
17 the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax
18 Commission. Proof of membership in the Mississippi Association of
19 Realtors on the applicant's personal business card on which the
20 REALTOR trademark logo is also printed shall be presented at that
21 time. The application and the additional fee, less Two Dollars
22 (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
23 remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as
24 prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee
25 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
26 general fund.



27 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
28 after July 1, 2003, any person applying for a distinctive tag
29 under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount of
30 Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag applied
31 for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other
32 taxes and fees. The additional fee shall be for a period of time
33 to run concurrent with the vehicle's established license tag year.
34 The additional fee is due and payable at the time the original
35 application is made for distinctive license tags under this
36 section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal
37 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license
38 tag. If the owner does wish to retain the distinctive license tag
39 or is no longer affiliated with the Mississippi Association of
40 Realtors, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

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

46 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
47 collected on special license tags issued pursuant to this section
48 shall be deposited into a special fund hereby created in the State
49 Treasury for use by Habitat for Humanity in Mississippi to fund
50 affordable housing projects statewide.

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

55 (c) Three Dollars (\$3.00) of each additional fee shall
56 be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be
57 expended only for the repair, maintenance, construction or
58 reconstruction of highways.



59 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
60 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
61 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
62 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
63 this section. The tax collector shall issue a month and year
64 license decal for each distinctive license tag issued under this
65 section, which will expire the same month and year as the license
66 tag.

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

77 **SECTION 2.** Nothing in this act shall affect or defeat any
78 claim, assessment, appeal, suit, right or cause of action for
79 taxes due or accrued under the highway privilege tax laws or the
80 Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Law of 1958 before the date on which
81 this act becomes effective, whether such claims, assessments,
82 appeals, suits or actions have been begun before the date on which
83 this act becomes effective or are begun thereafter; and the
84 provisions of the highway privilege laws or the Motor Vehicle Ad
85 Valorem Tax Law of 1958 are expressly continued in full force,
86 effect and operation for the purpose of the assessment, collection
87 and enrollment of liens for any taxes due or accrued and the
88 execution of any warrant under such laws before the date on which
89 this act becomes effective, and for the imposition of any
90 penalties, forfeitures or claims for failure to comply with such
91 laws.



92 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified as a new
93 section in Chapter 19, Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972.

94 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after July 1, 2003.

