

By: Representatives Ishee, Barnett (116th),
Creel, Dedeaux, Fredericks, Guice, Janus,
Jennings, Peranich, Robertson, Simpson

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 804

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
2 LICENSE TAGS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE; TO
3 PRESCRIBE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH TAGS; TO
4 PROVIDE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEES COLLECTED; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) Owners of motor vehicles upon complying with
8 the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of
9 motor vehicles, and upon payment of the road and bridge privilege
10 taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as prescribed by law
11 for private carriers of passengers, pickup trucks and other
12 noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of an additional
13 annual fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
14 section, shall be entitled to a distinctive license tag that
15 demonstrates their support for the prevention of child abuse. The
16 tags shall be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission
17 prescribes subject to the approval of the Mississippi License Tag
18 Commission; however, each tag shall display the words "Stop Child
19 Abuse" and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as
20 may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

21 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags shall be
22 made to the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State
23 Tax Commission. The application and the additional fee imposed
24 under subsection (3) of this section, less Two Dollars (\$2.00)
25 thereof to be retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to
26 the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as prescribed by the
27 commission. The portion of the additional fee retained by the tax
28 collector shall be deposited into the county general fund.



29 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
30 after July 1, 2003, any person applying for a distinctive license
31 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
32 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
33 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
34 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
35 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
36 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
37 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
38 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
39 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
40 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
41 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
42 collector.

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

48 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
49 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
50 section shall be deposited into the special fund created in
51 subsection (7) of this section.

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

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



61 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
62 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
63 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
64 27-19-44.2.

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

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

83 (7) There is established in the State Treasury a special
84 fund which shall consist of monies required to be deposited
85 therein under subsection (4) of this section. Monies in the
86 special fund, upon legislative appropriation, shall be expended by
87 the Mississippi Department of Human Services to help defray the
88 operational expenses of the Division of Family and Children's
89 Services at the county level. Unexpended amounts remaining in the
90 special fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into
91 the State General Fund, and any interest earned or investment
92 earnings on amounts in the special fund shall be deposited to the
93 credit of the special fund.



94 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after July 1, 2003.

