

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2128

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE
 2 LICENSE TAG FOR SUPPORTERS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO ARE
 3 CLASSIFIED AS MISSING IN ACTION OR PERSONS WHO WERE PRISONERS OF
 4 WAR WHILE SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES; TO PROVIDE
 5 THAT A PORTION OF THE FEE CHARGED FOR SUCH TAG SHALL BE DEPOSITED
 6 TO THE CREDIT OF A FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD OVERSEEING
 7 THE VETERANS NURSING HOMES IN THIS STATE FOR THE BENEFIT OF
 8 INDIGENT VETERANS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF SUCH NURSING HOMES; TO
 9 PROVIDE THAT A PORTION OF THE FEE CHARGED FOR SUCH LICENSE TAG
 10 SHALL BE DEPOSITED TO THE CREDIT OF THE VETERANS MONUMENT TRUST
 11 FUND; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPERSAL OF THE REMAINDER OF THE FEE FOR
 12 SUCH TAG; TO AMEND SECTION 55-15-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 13 MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AFTER COMPLETION OF THE MISSISSIPPI VETERANS
 14 MONUMENT, MONEY IN THE MISSISSIPPI VETERANS MONUMENT TRUST FUND
 15 SHALL BE UTILIZED BY THE MISSISSIPPI WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL
 16 COMMISSION FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE VETERANS MONUMENT AND MEMORIALS;
 17 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
 20 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
 21 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
 22 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
 23 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
 24 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
 25 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for each motor
 26 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a
 27 supporter of members of the United States Armed Forces who are
 28 classified as missing in action or persons who were prisoners of
 29 war while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The
 30 distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and
 31 design as the State Tax Commission, with the advice of the
 32 American Ex-POW's, Department of Mississippi, may prescribe and
 33 shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be
 34 necessary to distinguish each license tag.



35 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
36 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
37 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the
38 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
39 Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be retained by the tax collector, shall be
40 remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as
41 prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional fee
42 retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the county
43 general fund.

44 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
45 after July 1, 2003, any person applying for a distinctive license
46 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
47 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
48 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
49 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
50 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
51 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
52 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
53 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
54 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
55 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
56 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
57 collector.

58 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
59 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
60 the State Tax Commission shall certify the total fees collected
61 under this section to the State Treasurer who shall distribute
62 such collections as follows:

63 (a) Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) of each additional fee
64 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
65 section shall be deposited to the credit of a fund to be
66 administered by the board overseeing the veterans nursing homes in



67 this state for the benefit of indigent veterans who are residents
68 of such nursing homes.

69 (b) Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) of each additional fee
70 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
71 section shall be deposited into the Mississippi Veterans Monument
72 Trust Fund created in Section 55-15-59.

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

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

82 (e) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
83 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
84 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
85 27-19-44.2.

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

94 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
95 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
96 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
97 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
98 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
99 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and



100 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
101 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
102 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
103 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

104 **SECTION 2.** Section 55-15-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
105 amended as follows:

106 55-15-59. The Mississippi Veterans Monument Commission is
107 hereby authorized to accept gifts, grants and donations from
108 individuals and organizations, to be deposited in the Veterans
109 Monument Trust Fund which is hereby created in the State Treasury.
110 The State Treasurer shall invest all monies in the Veterans
111 Monument Trust Fund and any interest earned shall be deposited
112 into the fund. All appropriated funds and funds deposited in the
113 Veterans Monument Trust Fund shall be used exclusively for the
114 purpose of designing, erecting, maintaining and dedication of the
115 veterans monument, except that not more than Seven Thousand Five
116 Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) may be expended annually to pay the
117 administrative costs of the commission. Costs associated with the
118 designing, erecting, maintaining and dedication of the veterans
119 monument are not considered commission administrative costs for
120 purposes of this section. * * * Upon completion of the monument,
121 money in the trust fund shall be utilized by the Mississippi War
122 Veterans Memorial Commission for maintenance of the veterans
123 monument and memorials.

124 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
125 and after July 1, 2003.

