

By: Senator(s) Walden, Hyde-Smith

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2515

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
2 LICENSE PLATES FOR MISSISSIPPIANS WHO ARE HONORABLY DISCHARGED
3 VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE
4 VIETNAM CONFLICT AND WERE AWARDED A VIETNAM SERVICE RIBBON; AND
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** In recognition of the patriotic service rendered
8 by Mississippians who are honorably discharged veterans who served
9 in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam Conflict and
10 were awarded a Vietnam Service Ribbon, any such person is
11 privileged to obtain distinctive motor vehicle license plates or
12 tags for each motor vehicle registered in his name identifying his
13 status as a Vietnam veteran. The State Tax Commission, with
14 concurrence by the State Veterans Affairs Board, shall develop
15 decals to be affixed to the license tag indicating branch and
16 period of military service. The distinctive plates or tags shall
17 be of a color and design designated by the Tax Commission with
18 concurrence by the State Veterans Affairs Board.

19 The distinctive license plates shall be prepared by the Tax
20 Commission and shall be issued through the tax collectors of the
21 counties in the same manner as are other motor vehicle license
22 plates or tags. An additional annual tag fee of Thirty Dollars
23 (\$30.00) shall be collected by the tax collector for such license
24 plates or tags and shall be remitted to the Tax Commission on a
25 monthly basis as prescribed by the commission. The additional fee
26 is due and payable at the time the original application is made
27 for a distinctive tag under this section and thereafter annually
28 at the time of renewal registration as long as the owner retains



29 the distinctive license tag. The State Tax Commission shall
30 deposit such fee to the credit of a fund to be administered by the
31 board overseeing the veterans nursing homes in this state for the
32 benefit of indigent veterans who are residents of such nursing
33 homes.

34 An applicant for such distinctive plates shall present to the
35 issuing official written evidence of the veteran's service. Such
36 evidence shall include a copy of the applicant's DD-214 form, a
37 Report of Separation from Military Service, a military discharge
38 document, or a written certification of military service from the
39 State Veterans Affairs Board. The distinctive license plates or
40 tags so issued shall be used only upon a personally or jointly
41 owned private passenger vehicle (to include station wagons,
42 recreational motor vehicles and pickup trucks) registered in the
43 name, or jointly in the name, of the person making application
44 therefor, and when issued to such person shall be used upon the
45 vehicle for which issued in lieu of the standard license plate or
46 license tag normally issued for such vehicle.

47 The distinctive license plates shall not be transferable
48 between motor vehicle owners; and in the event the owner of a
49 vehicle bearing a distinctive plate shall sell, trade, exchange or
50 otherwise dispose of the vehicle, such plate shall be retained by
51 such owner and returned to the tax collector.

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

