

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott, Cuevas, Lee

To: Insurance

SENATE BILL NO. 2652

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION
2 63-15-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PROOF OF MOTOR
3 VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE OR OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL
4 RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE RECEIVING MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS; AND
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section

8 63-15-8, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 63-15-8. (1) Every owner of a motor vehicle in this state
10 shall furnish proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other
11 form of financial responsibility as required by this chapter
12 before such owner may receive a license tag for a motor vehicle or
13 renew a license tag. Proof of motor vehicle liability insurance
14 or other form of financial responsibility as required by this
15 chapter shall be made by signing a certificate on a form
16 prescribed by the Commissioner of Insurance stating that the motor
17 vehicle owner is insured or otherwise financially responsible for
18 at least the minimum requirements as provided by this chapter and
19 in any form as provided by this chapter. Such certificate shall
20 state in bold print that anyone who shall affirmatively sign such
21 certificate who is not insured or otherwise financially
22 responsible for at least the minimum requirements as provided by
23 this chapter shall be subject to a fine of Five Hundred Dollars
24 (\$500.00) and imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year
25 or both such fine and imprisonment. Such certificate shall be
26 furnished to each motor vehicle owner by the tax collector of the
27 county where the motor vehicle is registered. The tax collector
28 shall mail such certificate with a motor vehicle tag renewal



29 notice that shall be mailed back to the tax collector before a tag
30 may be renewed. The tax collector shall also make such
31 certificates available at the tax collector's office during
32 regular business hours. The tax collector shall forward a copy of
33 the certificate to the Department of Public Safety and shall keep
34 the original in the tax collector's records.

35 (2) Any person who presents or causes to be presented to the
36 department or to any court of this state false evidence of motor
37 vehicle liability insurance or other form of financial
38 responsibility as required by this chapter, upon conviction, shall
39 be guilty of perjury and shall be fined Five Hundred Dollars
40 (\$500.00) and shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not
41 exceeding one (1) year or both such fine and imprisonment. This
42 fine and imprisonment shall be waived if the offender chooses to
43 purchase, and provides proof of such purchase by the court date,
44 motor vehicle liability insurance for a minimum of six (6) months'
45 coverage in at least the minimum amounts required under paragraph
46 (j) of Section 63-15-3. Any person convicted of filing false
47 proof of motor vehicle liability insurance or other form of
48 financial responsibility as required by this chapter shall
49 surrender to the department his driver's license, license plates
50 and registration of the motor vehicle for which false proof was
51 presented and the procedure for the suspension of licenses
52 provided in Section 63-15-11 relating to accidents shall be
53 followed. Such driver's license, license plates and registration
54 shall be reinstated upon payment of any fines and reinstatement
55 fees, serving of a sentence if applicable, upon presentation of
56 proof of financial responsibility for a period of one (1) year or
57 upon presentation of proof of purchase of minimum motor vehicle
58 liability insurance in accordance with the provisions of this
59 subsection. The district attorney of the jurisdiction where any
60 false evidence is filed shall prosecute any violation of this



61 section. Any person convicted under this section shall be
62 assessed with all costs of prosecution and all court costs.

63 (3) All insurance carriers are required to notify the
64 appropriate tax collector, sheriff and the department when there
65 is a lapse of the liability coverage that was purchased in
66 accordance with this section. Upon such notification, the sheriff
67 may confiscate the motor vehicle license tag, which tag may be
68 returned to the owner in the manner provided in this section.

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

