

By: Senator(s) Michel, Carmichael, Chaney, Dearing, Moffatt, Hewes, Minor, Gollott, Robertson, Burton, Williamson, Tollison, Johnson (19th), Stogner, Browning, Dickerson, Dawkins, Smith, Lee, Harvey, Kirby, Mettetal, Frazier, Farris, Walden, Chamberlin, Turner, Hyde-Smith, Nunnelee, King

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2659

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 on the left side of the license tag.
15 The distinctive license tags so issued shall be of a color and
16 design as the State Tax Commission, with the advice of the
17 Mississippi Association of REALTORS, may prescribe, and shall
18 consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary
19 to distinguish each license tag.

20 (2) Application for the special license tag shall be made to
21 the county tax collector on forms prescribed by the State Tax
22 Commission. Proof of membership in the Mississippi Association of
23 REALTORS shall be presented to the county tax collector at the
24 time of the application. An applicant's personal business card on
25 which the REALTOR trademark logo is also printed shall be accepted
26 as proof of membership in the Mississippi Association of REALTORS.
27 The application and the additional fee, less Two Dollars (\$2.00)



28 thereof to be retained by the tax collector, shall be remitted to
29 the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis as prescribed by the
30 commission. The portion of the additional fee retained by the tax
31 collector shall be deposited into the county general fund.

32 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
33 after July 1, 2003, any person applying for a distinctive tag
34 under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount of
35 Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag applied
36 for under this section, which shall be in addition to all other
37 taxes and fees. The additional fee shall be for a period of time
38 to run concurrent with the vehicle's established license tag year.
39 The additional fee is due and payable at the time the original
40 application is made for distinctive license tags under this
41 section and thereafter annually at the time of renewal
42 registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive license
43 tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive license
44 tag or is no longer affiliated with the Mississippi Association of
45 REALTORS, he must surrender it to the local county tax collector.

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

51 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
52 collected on special license tags issued pursuant to this section
53 shall be distributed to Habitat for Humanity International, Inc.
54 for use in funding affordable housing projects in Mississippi.

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

59 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee
60 collected on special tags issued pursuant to this section shall be



61 deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be expended
62 only for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction
63 of highways.

64 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
65 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
66 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
67 27-19-44.2.

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

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

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

