

By: Representative Martinson

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1047

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE ANTI-THEFT
2 MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS AND DECALS; TO PRESCRIBE AN ADDITIONAL
3 FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH LICENSE TAGS; TO PRESCRIBE THE MANNER
4 IN WHICH PROCEEDS FROM THE ADDITIONAL FEE SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED;
5 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle, who is a
8 resident of this state, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws
9 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and upon
10 payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes
11 and registration fees as prescribed by law for private carriers of
12 passengers, pickup trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles,
13 and upon payment of an additional annual fee in the amount
14 provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be issued a
15 special license tag for each motor vehicle registered in his name
16 designed to discourage the theft of motor vehicles and to assist
17 law enforcement officers in identifying and recovering stolen
18 motor vehicles. Each distinctive license tag shall display in
19 bold letters across the face of the tag the word "ANTI-THEFT",
20 shall be of such color and design as the State Tax Commission may
21 prescribe, shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as
22 may be necessary to distinguish each license tag and shall include
23 the county of registration. Purchasers of the distinctive tag
24 shall also be issued a special decal designed by the commission
25 for placement upon the left rear bumper of the vehicle. Each
26 decal shall contain letters, symbols or abbreviations created by
27 the commission to identify the owner of the vehicle by race, hair
28 color and gender. Failure of an owner to place the decal on the

29 bumper of the vehicle shall not be unlawful or constitute a
30 violation of law.

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

40 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
41 after July 1, 2005, any person applying for a distinctive license
42 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
43 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
44 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
45 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
46 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established
47 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
48 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
49 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
50 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
51 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
52 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
53 collector.

54 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
55 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
56 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
57 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
58 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
59 Treasurer shall distribute such collections as follows:

60 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
61 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this

62 section shall be disbursed equally between the Mississippi
63 Sheriffs Association and the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of
64 Police.

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

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

74 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
75 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
76 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
77 27-19-44.2.

78 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
79 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
80 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
81 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
82 this section. The tax collector shall issue month and year decals
83 for each distinctive license tag issued under this section, which
84 will expire the same month and year as the regular license tag.

85 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
86 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
87 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
88 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
89 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
90 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
91 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
92 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
93 distributed proportionately in the same manner as funds from the

94 sale of regular distinctive license tags issued under this
95 section.

96 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
97 and after July 1, 2005.