

By: Senator(s) King

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2138

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING DISABLED  
3 AMERICAN VETERAN DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS; AND FOR  
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-19-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 27-19-53. (1) Any legal resident of the State of  
9 Mississippi who is a veteran of service in the Armed Forces of the  
10 United States, and who is rated as having one hundred percent  
11 (100%) permanent service-connected disability by the Veterans'  
12 Administration is privileged to purchase annually under this  
13 subsection one (1) motor vehicle license plate or tag in his or  
14 her county of legal residence, for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00)  
15 in total cost, regardless of make or model of motor vehicle. The  
16 registration year of such motor vehicle shall commence the first  
17 day of the month in which application for registration is made, as  
18 provided in Section 27-19-31.

19 (a) Not more than one (1) such motor vehicle license  
20 plate or tag shall be issued under this subsection to each such  
21 qualified veteran.

22 (b) This section pertains only to taxes or plates for  
23 private passenger motor vehicles or pickup trucks.

24 (c) Proof of ownership of a particular motor vehicle  
25 for which a license plate or tag is requested must be shown at  
26 time of application for such plate or tag.

27 (d) Vehicles owned by such veterans are exempt under  
28 this subsection from all ad valorem and privilege taxes; however,

29 the surviving spouse of a deceased person who was issued a license  
30 plate or tag under this subsection shall be entitled to apply for  
31 or retain a license tag issued under this subsection and may  
32 continue annually to renew registration for one (1) motor vehicle  
33 license plate or tag under this subsection for as long as the  
34 spouse remains unmarried. At the time of application or renewal  
35 registration, a surviving spouse who desires to retain the  
36 distinctive plate or tag issued under this subsection shall file  
37 with the county tax collector a sworn statement that the spouse is  
38 unmarried. Any such vehicle when so registered shall be exempt  
39 from all ad valorem and privilege taxes.

40 (2) Any person who is entitled to obtain a license tag under  
41 subsection (1) of this section may be issued one (1) additional  
42 such license tag for any other vehicle registered in his or her  
43 name upon payment of the road and bridge privilege taxes, ad  
44 valorem taxes and registration fees as otherwise prescribed by law  
45 for the particular vehicle.

46 (3) The State Tax Commission is directed to furnish each  
47 veteran obtaining a license tag under this section an emblem,  
48 which the veteran shall attach securely to the tag, showing that  
49 the tag was issued to a disabled American veteran.

50 (4) A license issued under this section shall not be  
51 transferable to any other person.

52 (5) Any person evading or violating any of the provisions of  
53 this section, or attempting to secure benefits under this section  
54 to which he is not entitled, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,  
55 upon conviction, shall be fined not less than One Thousand Dollars  
56 (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned in the county jail for not less than six  
57 (6) months, or both.

58 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after its passage.