HOUSE BILL NO. 1188

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. Failure of

28 an owner to place the decal on the bumper of the vehicle shall not

29 be unlawful or constitute a violation of law.

30   (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized

31 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms

32 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the

33 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less

34 Two Dollars ($2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,

35 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis

36 as prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional

37 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the

38 county general fund.

39   (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or

40 after July 1, 2006, any person applying for a distinctive license

41 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount

42 of Thirty Dollars ($30.00) for each distinctive license tag

43 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all

44 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a

45 period of time to run concurrent with the vehicle's established

46 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the

47 time the original application is made for a distinctive license

48 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of

49 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive

50 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive

51 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax

52 collector.

53   (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the

54 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,

55 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the

56 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the

57 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State

58 Treasurer shall distribute such collections as follows:

59   (a) Twenty-four Dollars ($24.00) of each additional fee

60 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this

61 section shall be disbursed equally between the Mississippi

62 Sheriffs Association and the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of

63 Police.

64   (b) One Dollar ($1.00) of each additional fee collected

65 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall

66 be deposited into the Mississippi Fire Fighter's Memorial Burn

67 Center Fund created pursuant to Section 7-9-70.

68   (c) Two Dollars ($2.00) of each additional fee

69 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this

70 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund

71 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or

72 reconstruction of highways.

73   (d) One Dollar ($1.00) of each additional fee collected

74 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall

75 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section

76 27-19-44.2.

77   (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as

78 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under

79 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the

80 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under

81 this section. The tax collector shall issue month and year decals

82 for each distinctive license tag issued under this section, which

83 will expire the same month and year as the regular license tag.

84   (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license

85 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and

86 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by

87 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license

88 tag shall be Ten Dollars ($10.00). The tax collector receiving

89 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and

90 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee

91 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be

92 distributed proportionately in the same manner as funds from the

93 sale of regular distinctive license tags issued under this

94 section.

95   **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

96 and after July 1, 2006.

H. B. No. 1188   *HR03/R621.1*
06/HR03/R621.1   ST: Distinctive "ANTI-THEFT" license tag;
PAGE 4 (JWB\LH)   authorize issuance.