

By: Representative Hines

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 597

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE MOTOR VEHICLE
2 LICENSE TAGS TO SUPPORTERS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS; TO
3 PRESCRIBE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH LICENSE TAGS;
4 TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES DERIVED FROM THE
5 ADDITIONAL FEE; 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 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 fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
13 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for any motor
14 vehicle registered in his name identifying such person as a
15 supporter of domestic violence awareness. The distinctive license
16 tags so issued shall be of such color and design as the State Tax
17 Commission, with the advice of the Chief Executive Officer of Our
18 Home, may prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers,
19 or both, as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

20 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
21 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
22 prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application and the
23 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
24 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
25 shall be remitted to the State Tax Commission on a monthly basis
26 as prescribed by the commission. The portion of the additional
27 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the
28 county general fund.

29 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
30 after July 1, 2007, any person applying for a distinctive license
31 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
32 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
33 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
34 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
35 period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established
36 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
37 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
38 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
39 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
40 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
41 license tag, he must surrender it to the local county tax
42 collector.

43 (4) The State Tax Commission shall deposit all fees into the
44 State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each month,
45 the State Tax Commission shall certify to the State Treasurer the
46 total fees collected under this section from the issuance of the
47 distinctive license tags issued under this section. The State
48 Treasurer shall distribute such collections as follows:

49 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
50 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
51 section shall be distributed to Our House.

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

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

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

65 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
66 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
67 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
68 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
69 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
70 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
71 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
72 tag.

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

83 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
84 and after July 1, 2007.