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To: Ways and Means

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 888

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 7-9-70, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCLUDE BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER AND ANY BURN CENTER AFFILIATED WITH  
3 A LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTER IN THE MISSISSIPPI TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM AS A  
4 BURN CENTER FOR WHICH FUNDS SHALL BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE  
5 MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND; TO DELETE THE UNIVERSITY OF  
6 MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER AS BEING AN AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR  
7 RECEIVING GIFTS, DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, APPROPRIATIONS OR GRANTS AND  
8 FOR DEPOSIT OF SUCH INTO THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND; TO AMEND  
9 SECTION 27-19-44.4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE THE  
10 AMOUNT OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE THAT IS IMPOSED FOR ANY DISTINCTIVE  
11 OR SPECIAL LICENSE TAG OR PLATE AND THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH ARE  
12 DEPOSITED INTO THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND; TO AMEND SECTION  
13 41-59-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BOARD  
14 OF HEALTH SHALL REVISE THE PLAN FOR THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO  
15 MISSISSIPPI BURN VICTIMS THROUGH THE EXISTING TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM  
16 OF HOSPITALS TO INCLUDE BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER AND ANY BURN CENTER  
17 AFFILIATED WITH A LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER IN THE MISSISSIPPI TRAUMA  
18 CARE SYSTEM; TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
19 TO ASSESS AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF FIFTY CENTS UPON EACH SET OF  
20 LICENSE TAGS AND TWO DECALS ISSUED, OR UPON EACH SET OF TWO DECALS  
21 ISSUED, FOR PRIVATE CARRIERS OF PASSENGERS AND FOR PRIVATE  
22 CARRIERS OF PROPERTY OF A GROSS WEIGHT OF 10,000 POUNDS AND LESS,  
23 AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROCEEDS FROM SUCH FEE SHALL BE DEPOSITED  
24 IN THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 7-9-70; AND  
25 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

27 **SECTION 1.** Section 7-9-70, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
28 amended as follows:



29           7-9-70. (1) There is created and established in the State  
30 Treasury a special trust fund to be known as the "Mississippi Fire  
31 Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund." There shall be deposited in  
32 such fund (a) all such fees as the State Treasurer is directed to  
33 deposit therein under subsection (4) of Section 27-19-56.1, under  
34 subsection (4) of Section 27-19-56.2 and under subsection (5) (b)  
35 of Section 27-19-56.4; and (b) any gift, donation, bequest, trust,  
36 grant, endowment, transfer of money or securities or any other  
37 monies from any source whatsoever as may be designated for deposit  
38 in the fund.

39           (2) The principal of the trust fund created under subsection  
40 (1) of this section shall remain inviolate and shall be invested  
41 as provided by law. Interest and income derived from investment  
42 of the principal of the trust fund may be appropriated by the  
43 Legislature and expended exclusively for the support and  
44 maintenance of the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center.

45           (3) From and after June 17, 2005, there shall be created in  
46 the State Treasury a fund known as the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.  
47 The Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be the Mississippi Fire  
48 Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund and any reference to the  
49 Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund in law shall  
50 mean the Mississippi Burn Care Fund. All funds payable to the  
51 Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund shall, from  
52 and after June 17, 2005, be paid to the Mississippi Burn Care  
53 Fund. All balances in the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn



54 Center Fund and the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Fire  
55 Fighters Burn Center Escrow Fund shall be transferred to the  
56 Mississippi Burn Care Fund on June 17, 2005. All interest earned  
57 by funds in the Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be credited to  
58 the fund and not the General Fund. For fiscal year 2006, and for  
59 each fiscal year thereafter, the Legislature may appropriate  
60 interest, income or other funds credited to the Mississippi Burn  
61 Care Fund, and there shall be no requirement that the monies  
62 deposited to the fund be held inviolate in trust. Any  
63 appropriation of funds from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall  
64 be to the Mississippi Department of Health for the purpose of  
65 carrying out its responsibilities established in Section 41-59-5;  
66 however, after the Mississippi Burn Center established at the  
67 University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section 37-115-45  
68 is operational, any appropriation of funds from the Mississippi  
69 Burn Care Fund shall be to the University of Mississippi Medical  
70 Center for the operation of the Mississippi Burn Center, to  
71 Baptist Medical Center, and to any burn center affiliated with a  
72 Level I trauma center in the Mississippi Trauma Care System.  
73 However, such funds shall be equitably distributed to the  
74 University of Mississippi Medical Center for the operation of the  
75 Mississippi Burn Center, to Baptist Medical Center, and to any  
76 burn center affiliated with a Level I trauma center in the  
77 Mississippi Trauma Care System. The Mississippi Burn Care Fund  
78 shall be authorized to accept gifts, donations, bequests,



79 appropriations or other grants from any source, governmental or  
80 private, for deposit into the fund. The Department of  
81 Health \* \* \* shall be the agency responsible for receiving any  
82 such gifts, donations, bequests, appropriations or grants and  
83 shall deposit such to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.

84 **SECTION 2.** Section 27-19-44.4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
85 amended as follows:

86 27-19-44.4. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law  
87 to the contrary, beginning with any registration year commencing  
88 on or after January 1, 2004, an additional fee of One Dollar  
89 (\$1.00) is imposed for any distinctive or special license tag or  
90 plate authorized under this chapter regardless of whether such a  
91 distinctive or special license tag or plate was authorized before  
92 or after July 1, 2003. The proceeds collected from the additional  
93 fee imposed under this section shall be deposited into the special  
94 fund created under Section 27-19-56.69(8).

95 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
96 contrary, beginning with any registration year commencing on or  
97 after January 1, \* \* \* 2025, an additional fee of \* \* \* Two  
98 Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2.50) is imposed for any distinctive or  
99 special license tag or plate authorized under this chapter  
100 regardless of whether such a distinctive or special license tag or  
101 plate was authorized before or after July 1, \* \* \* 2025. The  
102 proceeds collected from the additional fee imposed under this



103 section shall be deposited into the Mississippi Burn Care Fund  
104 created under Section 7-9-70.

105 (3) The fees imposed under this section shall be in addition  
106 to any other fees imposed under this chapter for a distinctive or  
107 special license tag or plate.

108 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
109 distinctive or special license tags or plates:

110 (a) Which are issued under Section 27-19-46, 27-19-51,  
111 27-19-53, 27-19-54, 27-19-56.5, 27-19-56.12, 27-19-56.13,  
112 27-19-56.33, 27-19-56.36, 27-19-56.38, 27-19-56.42, 27-19-56.48,  
113 27-19-56.49, 27-19-56.50, 27-19-56.51, 27-19-56.62, 27-19-56.79,  
114 27-19-56.85 or 27-19-169; or

115 (b) For which no additional fee is required to be paid.

116 **SECTION 3.** Section 41-59-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
117 amended as follows:

118 41-59-5. (1) The State Board of Health shall establish and  
119 maintain a program for the improvement and regulation of emergency  
120 medical services (hereinafter EMS) in the State of Mississippi.  
121 The responsibility for implementation and conduct of this program  
122 shall be vested in the State Health Officer of the State Board of  
123 Health along with such other officers and boards as may be  
124 specified by law or regulation.

125 (2) The board shall provide for the regulation and licensing  
126 of public and private ambulance service, inspection and issuance  
127 of permits for ambulance vehicles, training and certification of



128 EMS personnel, including drivers and attendants, the development  
129 and maintenance of a statewide EMS records program, development  
130 and adoption of EMS regulations, the coordination of an EMS  
131 communications system, and other related EMS activities.

132 (3) The board is authorized to promulgate and enforce such  
133 rules, regulations and minimum standards as needed to carry out  
134 the provisions of this chapter.

135 (4) The board is authorized to receive any funds  
136 appropriated to the board from the Emergency Medical Services  
137 Operating Fund created in Section 41-59-61 and is further  
138 authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council  
139 acting in an advisory capacity, to administer the disbursement of  
140 such funds to the counties, municipalities and organized emergency  
141 medical service districts and the utilization of such funds by the  
142 same, as provided in Section 41-59-61.

143 (5) The department acting as the lead agency, in  
144 consultation with and having solicited advice from the EMS  
145 Advisory Council, shall develop a uniform nonfragmented inclusive  
146 statewide trauma care system that provides excellent patient care.  
147 It is the intent of the Legislature that the purpose of this  
148 system is to reduce death and disability resulting from traumatic  
149 injury, and in order to accomplish this goal it is necessary to  
150 assign additional responsibilities to the department. The  
151 department is assigned the responsibility for creating,  
152 implementing and managing the statewide trauma care system. The



153 department shall be designated as the lead agency for trauma care  
154 systems development. The department shall develop and administer  
155 trauma regulations that include, but are not limited to, the  
156 Mississippi Trauma Care System Plan, trauma system standards,  
157 trauma center designations, field triage, interfacility trauma  
158 transfer, EMS aero medical transportation, trauma data collection,  
159 trauma care system evaluation and management of state trauma  
160 systems funding. The department shall promulgate regulations  
161 specifying the methods and procedures by which  
162 Mississippi-licensed acute care facilities shall participate in  
163 the statewide trauma system. Those regulations shall include  
164 mechanisms for determining the appropriate level of participation  
165 for each facility or class of facilities. The department shall  
166 also adopt a schedule of fees to be assessed for facilities that  
167 choose not to participate in the statewide trauma care system, or  
168 which participate at a level lower than the level at which they  
169 are capable of participating. The fees paid under this provision  
170 shall be for the exclusive benefit of the statewide trauma care  
171 system and shall not lapse into the State General Fund. The  
172 department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to  
173 effectuate this provision by September 1, 2008, with an  
174 implementation date of September 1, 2008. The department shall  
175 take the necessary steps to develop, adopt and implement the  
176 Mississippi Trauma Care System Plan and all associated trauma care  
177 system regulations necessary to implement the Mississippi Trauma



178 Care System. The department shall cause the implementation of  
179 both professional and lay trauma education programs. These trauma  
180 educational programs shall include both clinical trauma education  
181 and injury prevention. As it is recognized that rehabilitation  
182 services are essential for traumatized individuals to be returned  
183 to active, productive lives, the department shall coordinate the  
184 development of the inclusive trauma system with the Mississippi  
185 Department of Rehabilitation Services and all other appropriate  
186 rehabilitation systems.

187 (6) The State Board of Health is authorized to receive any  
188 funds appropriated to the board from the Mississippi Trauma  
189 Care \* \* \* Systems Fund created in Section 41-59-75. It is  
190 further authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory  
191 Council and the Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee acting in  
192 advisory capacities, to administer the disbursements of those  
193 funds according to adopted trauma care system regulations. Any  
194 Level I trauma care facility or center located in a state  
195 contiguous to the State of Mississippi that participates in the  
196 Mississippi Trauma Care System and has been designated by the  
197 department to perform specified trauma care services within the  
198 Trauma Care System under standards adopted by the department shall  
199 receive a reasonable amount of reimbursement from the department  
200 for the cost of providing trauma care services to Mississippi  
201 residents whose treatment is uncompensated.





202 (7) In addition to the trauma-related duties provided for in  
203 this section, the Board of Health shall develop a plan for the  
204 delivery of services to Mississippi burn victims through the  
205 existing trauma care system of hospitals. Such plan shall be  
206 operational by July 1, 2005, and shall include:

207 (a) Systems by which burn patients will be assigned or  
208 transferred to hospitals capable of meeting their needs;

209 (b) Until the Mississippi Burn Center established at  
210 the University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section  
211 37-115-45 is operational, procedures for allocating funds  
212 appropriated from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund to hospitals that  
213 provide services to Mississippi burn victims; and

214 (c) Such other provisions necessary to provide burn  
215 care for Mississippi residents, including reimbursement for  
216 travel, lodging, if no free lodging is available, meals and other  
217 reasonable travel-related expenses incurred by burn victims,  
218 family members and/or caregivers, as established by the State  
219 Board of Health through rules and regulations.

220 After the Mississippi Burn Center established at the  
221 University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section 37-115-45  
222 is operational, the Board of Health shall revise the plan to  
223 include the Mississippi Burn Center, Baptist Medical Center, and  
224 any burn center affiliated with a Level I trauma center in the  
225 Mississippi Trauma Care System. In addition, all funds  
226 appropriated and collected shall be equitably distributed to the



227 University of Mississippi Medical Center for the operation of the  
228 Mississippi Burn Center, to Baptist Medical Center, and to any  
229 burn center affiliated with a Level I trauma center in the  
230 Mississippi Trauma Care System.

231       **SECTION 4.** Section 27-19-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
232 amended as follows:

233       27-19-43. (1) License tags, substitute tags and decals for  
234 individual fleets and for private carriers of passengers, school  
235 buses (excluding school buses owned by a school district in the  
236 state), church buses, taxicabs, ambulances, hearses, motorcycles  
237 and private carriers of property, and private commercial carriers  
238 of property of a gross weight of ten thousand (10,000) pounds and  
239 less, shall be sold and issued by the tax collectors of the  
240 several counties.

241       (2) Applications for license tags for motor vehicles in a  
242 corporate fleet registered under Section 27-19-66, trailers in a  
243 fleet registered under Section 27-19-66.1, motor vehicles in a  
244 rental fleet registered under Section 27-19-66.2, and applications  
245 for all other license tags, substitute tags and decals shall be  
246 filed with the department or the local tax collector of the  
247 respective counties and forwarded to the department for issuance  
248 to the applicant. All tags and decals for vehicles owned by the  
249 state or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and vehicles owned  
250 by a fire protection district, school district or a county or



251 municipality, and all vehicles owned by a road, drainage or levee  
252 district shall be issued by the department.

253 (3) In addition to the privilege taxes levied herein, there  
254 shall be collected the following registration or tag fee:

255 (a) For the issuance of both a license tag and two (2)  
256 decals, a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00).

257 (b) For the issuance of up to two (2) decals only, a  
258 fee of Three Dollars and Seventy-five Cents (\$3.75).

259 (c) Additionally, the tax collector or the department,  
260 as the case may be, shall assess and collect a fee of Four Dollars  
261 (\$4.00) upon each set of license tags and two (2) decals issued,  
262 or upon each set of two (2) decals issued, and that sum shall be  
263 deposited in the Mississippi Trauma Care Systems Fund established  
264 in Section 41-59-75, to be used for the purposes set out in that  
265 section.

266 (d) Additionally, there shall be assessed and collected  
267 a fee of Fifty Cents (50¢) upon each set of license tags and two  
268 (2) decals issued, or upon each set of two (2) decals issued, for  
269 private carriers of passengers, and for private carriers of  
270 property of a gross weight of ten thousand (10,000) pounds and  
271 less, and that sum shall be deposited in the Mississippi Burn Care  
272 Fund created in Section 7-9-70.

273 No tag or decal shall be issued either by a tax collector or  
274 by the department without the collection of such registration fee



275 except substitute tags and decals and license tags for vehicles  
276 owned by the State of Mississippi.

277 Beginning July 1, 1987, and until the date specified in  
278 Section 65-39-35, there shall be levied a registration fee of Five  
279 Dollars (\$5.00) in addition to the regular registration fee  
280 imposed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection. Such  
281 additional registration fee shall be levied in the same manner as  
282 the regular registration fee.

283 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
284 and after July 1, 2025.

