

1 HB229
2 145951-3
3 By Representative Merrill
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 07-FEB-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a firefighter, including
9 a current member or a retired member of a paid,
10 part-paid, or volunteer fire department, may obtain
11 a firefighter tag upon payment of the regular
12 license fee. By separate law, an active volunteer
13 firefighter is exempt from the fee for one tag.

14 This bill would provide for an additional
15 fee of \$5 for each firefighter tag to be
16 distributed to the Fire Fighters Annuity and
17 Benefit Fund.

18
19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT

22
23 Relating to firefighter distinctive motor vehicle
24 tags; to amend Section 32-6-272 of the Code of Alabama 1975,
25 to provide an additional fee for firefighter tags to be
26 distributed to the Fire Fighters Annuity and Benefit Fund.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Section 32-6-272 of the Code of Alabama
2 1975, is amended to read as follows:

3 "§32-6-272.

4 "(a) The distinctive license plates here provided
5 for shall be prepared by the Commissioner of Revenue and shall
6 be issued through the judge of probate, license commissioner,
7 or other license issuing official of the several counties of
8 the state in like manner as are other motor vehicle license
9 plates or tags and such officers shall be entitled to their
10 regular fees for such service.

11 "(b) The Alabama Forestry Commission shall prepare a
12 list of all members of certified volunteer fire departments
13 and the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education
14 Commission shall prepare a list of all members of paid or
15 part-paid fire departments. The Forestry Commission and the
16 Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission
17 shall submit to the judge of probate, license commissioner, or
18 other license issuing official of each county by December 1 of
19 each year the lists of members of fire departments.

20 "(c) (1) An applicant for a distinctive plate shall
21 present to the issuing official proof of his or her
22 identification, and the firefighter shall be issued the
23 requested number of distinctive license plates or tags upon
24 the payment of the regular license fee for tags, as provided
25 by law, but shall not be required to pay the three dollar (\$3)
26 fee. The distinctive license plates or tags so issued shall be
27 used only upon and for personally-owned, private, passenger

1 vehicles, to include station wagons and pick-up trucks,
2 registered in the name of the firefighter making application
3 therefor, and when so issued to the applicant shall be used
4 upon the vehicle for which issued in lieu of the standard
5 license plates or license tags normally issued for such
6 vehicle.

7 "(2) In addition to any fee provided by law, an
8 applicant for a firefighter tag issued pursuant to this
9 section shall pay an annual additional fee of five dollars
10 (\$5) for each tag. The funds upon collection shall be
11 forwarded to the State Treasurer in the same manner as other
12 motor vehicle license fees and shall be distributed to the
13 Fire Fighters Annuity and Benefit Fund to be used for the
14 purposes of the fund.

15 "(d) Any person who joins a volunteer, paid, or
16 part-paid fire department after December 1 of any year or any
17 person who is mistakenly omitted from the lists prepared as
18 described above may obtain a distinctive plate by presenting
19 to the license issuing official proof of his or her membership
20 in a fire department by means of a certificate signed by the
21 chief of the department on a form prescribed by the Alabama
22 Forestry Commission.

23 "(e) Anyone who is proven to have either falsely
24 obtained or certified an individual to obtain a distinctive
25 firefighter license plate shall be guilty of a Class C
26 misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished according
27 to law.

1 "(f) A distinctive license plate shall be provided,
2 upon written request, to a widow or widower of either of a
3 paid, part-paid, or a volunteer firefighter who dies in the
4 line of duty. For purposes of this subsection, a death in the
5 line of duty is determined by a circumstance in which a
6 municipal firefighter's death would result in a death benefit
7 under Section 11-43-144."

8 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
9 first day of the third month following its passage and
10 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.