

1 HB85
2 156082-1
3 By Representative Merrill
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 14-JAN-14
6 PFD: 01/06/2014

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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.

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19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT

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23 Relating to firefighter distinctive motor vehicle
24 tags; to amend Section 32-6-272 of the Code of Alabama 1975,
25 as amended by Act 2013-398 of the 2013 Regular Session, to
26 provide an additional fee for firefighter tags to be
27 distributed to the Fire Fighters Annuity and Benefit Fund.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

2 Section 1. Section 32-6-272 of the Code of Alabama
3 1975, as amended by Act 2013-398 of the 2013 Regular Session,
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 "§32-6-272.

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

13 "(b) The Alabama Forestry Commission shall prepare a
14 list of all members of certified volunteer fire departments
15 and the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education
16 Commission shall prepare a list of all members of paid or
17 part-paid fire departments. The Alabama Forestry Commission
18 shall also add to the list any retired volunteer firefighter
19 retired from a volunteer fire department in another state who
20 submits proof to the commission of eligibility pursuant to
21 this division. The Forestry Commission and the Firefighters'
22 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall submit to
23 the judge of probate, license commissioner, or other license
24 issuing official of each county by December 1 of each year the
25 lists of members of fire departments.

26 "(c) (1) An applicant for a distinctive plate shall
27 present to the issuing official proof of his or her

1 identification, and the firefighter shall be issued the
2 requested number of distinctive license plates or tags upon
3 the payment of the regular license fee for tags, as provided
4 by law, but shall not be required to pay the three dollar (\$3)
5 fee. The distinctive license plates or tags so issued shall be
6 used only upon and for personally-owned, private, passenger
7 vehicles, to include station wagons and pick-up trucks,
8 registered in the name of the firefighter making application
9 therefor, and when so issued to the applicant shall be used
10 upon the vehicle for which issued in lieu of the standard
11 license plates or license tags normally issued for such
12 vehicle.

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

21 "(d) Any person who joins a volunteer, paid, or
22 part-paid fire department after December 1 of any year or any
23 person who is mistakenly omitted from the lists prepared as
24 described above may obtain a distinctive plate by presenting
25 to the license issuing official proof of his or her membership
26 in a fire department by means of a certificate signed by the

1 chief of the department on a form prescribed by the Alabama
2 Forestry Commission.

3 "(e) Anyone who is proven to have either falsely
4 obtained or certified an individual to obtain a distinctive
5 firefighter license plate shall be guilty of a Class C
6 misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished according
7 to law.

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

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