

1 HB77  
2 208721-2  
3 By Representative Whorton  
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21  
6 PFD: 11/30/2020



1 insignias used on the standard license plate issued for motor  
2 vehicles, the distinctive plates so issued firefighters shall  
3 bear a red Maltese cross emblem on each side to the left and  
4 right of the regular tag numbers. The words "Fire Fighter"  
5 should be centered at the bottom of the license plate.

6 "(b) In addition to any other fees provided for by  
7 law, an annual additional fee of ~~twenty-five cents (\$.25)~~ one  
8 dollar (\$1.00) is added to the cost of the firefighter  
9 distinctive license plate provided for in this division,  
10 effective January 1, 2022. The annual additional fee collected  
11 pursuant to this section shall be distributed by each  
12 licensing official to the state Comptroller. The state  
13 Comptroller shall distribute the net proceeds monthly as  
14 follows:

15 "(1) Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be deposited into a  
16 fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire Council and shall be  
17 used for the purpose of expanding and maintaining the Alabama  
18 Firefighter Memorial located in Tuscaloosa.

19 "(2) Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be distributed to the  
20 Alabama Fire College Joint Fire Council to be used for  
21 training expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support  
22 Program."

23 "(3) The funds generated by this fee shall be subject  
24 to audit from either the Alabama Department of Public  
25 Examiners or an independent certified public accountant once  
26 every three calendar years effective January 1, 2022.

27 "§32-6-280.

1           "(a) As used in this section, the following terms  
2 shall have the following meanings:

3           "(1) Professional firefighter means a paid member of  
4 a paid or part-paid fire department of a city, town, county,  
5 or other subdivision of the state, including the chief,  
6 assistant chief, warden, engineer, captain, firemen, and all  
7 other officers and employees of the department who actually  
8 engage in fire fighting or rendering first aid at the scene of  
9 an accident.

10           "(2) Retired professional firefighter means a  
11 retired member of a paid or part-paid fire department of a  
12 city, town, county, or other subdivision of the state,  
13 including the chief, assistant chief, warden, engineer,  
14 captain, firemen, and all other officers and employees of the  
15 department who actually engaged in fire fighting or rendering  
16 first aid at the scene of an accident. Notwithstanding any  
17 other provision of this division, retired professional  
18 firefighter includes a retired professional firefighter who is  
19 a resident of this state and who has retired from a  
20 professional fire department in another state and otherwise  
21 meets the requirements of this section.

22           "(b) (1) Notwithstanding Sections 32-6-64, 32-6-67,  
23 and 32-6-68, a retired professional firefighter, upon  
24 application and subject to the provisions of this section, may  
25 be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license plate as  
26 identification as a retired professional firefighter, and a  
27 professional firefighter, upon application and subject to the

1 provisions of this section, may be issued a distinctive motor  
2 vehicle license plate as identification as a professional  
3 firefighter.

4 "(2) In addition to the proper numbers, words, and  
5 insignias used on the standard license plate issued for motor  
6 vehicles, the distinctive plates so issued for a retired  
7 professional firefighter shall have a design created by the  
8 state association of professional firefighters in coordination  
9 with the Mobile Retired Firefighters and Paramedics  
10 Association and the Tuscaloosa Retired Firefighters  
11 Association, and the distinctive license plate so issued for a  
12 professional firefighter shall have a design created by the  
13 state association of professional firefighters.

14 "(c) (1) The distinctive license plates provided  
15 herein shall be approved by the Commissioner of Revenue and  
16 shall be issued through the judge of probate, license  
17 commissioner, or other license issuing official of the several  
18 counties of the state in the same manner as are other motor  
19 vehicle license plates and the officers shall be entitled to  
20 their regular fees for the service.

21 "(2) By December 1 of each year, the Firefighters'  
22 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall submit to  
23 the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other  
24 license issuing official of each county a list of eligible  
25 retired professional firefighters retired from paid or  
26 part-paid fire departments under this section. The  
27 Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission

1 shall also add to the list any retired professional  
2 firefighter retired from a paid or part-paid fire department  
3 in another state who submits proof to the commission of  
4 eligibility pursuant to this division. The Firefighters'  
5 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall also submit  
6 to the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other  
7 license issuing official of each county a list of eligible  
8 professional firefighters from paid or part-paid fire  
9 departments.

10 "(3) Any person who joins a paid or part-paid fire  
11 department after December 1 of any year or any person who is  
12 omitted from the list prepared as described ~~above~~ in  
13 subdivision (2) may obtain a distinctive license plate by  
14 presenting to the license issuing official proof of his or her  
15 membership in a paid or part-paid fire department by means of  
16 a certificate signed by the chief of the department on a form  
17 prescribed by the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and  
18 Education Commission.

19 "(4) Upon the initial application for a retired  
20 professional firefighter distinctive license plate under this  
21 section, an applicant for a distinctive plate provided ~~herein~~  
22 in this section shall present to the judge of probate, the  
23 license commissioner, or other license issuing official of the  
24 county, proof of his or her retirement from a fire department  
25 that is included on the list provided by the Firefighters'  
26 Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Proof of the  
27 person's retirement from a fire department included on the

1 list from the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education  
2 Commission is not required for renewal of the distinctive  
3 plate.

4 "(5) Upon the applicant submitting proof of his or  
5 her identification, the professional firefighter shall be  
6 issued the requested number of distinctive license plates upon  
7 the payment of the regular fee for license plates, as provided  
8 by law, but shall not be required to pay the three dollar (\$3)  
9 fee.

10 "(6) Upon the applicant submitting proof of his or  
11 her identification, the retired professional firefighter shall  
12 be issued the requested number of distinctive license plates  
13 upon the payment of the regular license fee for plates, as  
14 provided by law, but shall not be required to pay the three  
15 dollar (\$3) fee.

16 "(7) The distinctive license plates so issued shall  
17 be used only upon and for personally owned, private passenger  
18 vehicles, to include station wagons and pick-up trucks,  
19 registered in the name of the retired professional firefighter  
20 or professional firefighter making application therefor, and  
21 when so issued to the applicant shall be used upon the vehicle  
22 for which issued in lieu of the standard license plates  
23 normally issued for the vehicle.

24 "~~(8)~~ (8)a. In addition to any other fees provided  
25 for by law, an annual additional fee of ~~twenty-five cents~~  
26 ~~(\$ .25)~~ one dollar (\$1.00) is added to the cost of the retired  
27 professional firefighter and the professional firefighter

1 distinctive license plates provided for in this division. ~~The~~  
2 ~~annual additional fee collected pursuant to this section shall~~  
3 ~~be, effective January 1, 2022. The annual additional fee~~  
4 collected pursuant to this section shall be distributed by  
5 each licensing official to the state Comptroller. The state  
6 Comptroller shall distribute the net proceeds monthly as  
7 follows:

8 "a. 1. Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be deposited into a  
9 fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire Council and shall be  
10 used for the purpose of expanding and maintaining the Alabama  
11 Firefighter Memorial located in Tuscaloosa.

12 "~~b.~~ 2. Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be distributed to the  
13 Alabama Fire College Joint Fire Council to be used for  
14 training expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support  
15 Program.

16 b. The funds generated by this fee shall be subject  
17 to audit from either the Alabama Department of Public  
18 Examiners or an independent certified public accountant once  
19 every three calendar years effective January 1, 2022.

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

26 "(d) Retired professional firefighters distinctive  
27 license plates as provided by this section shall be prepared



1 and furnished for the licensing year commencing January 1,  
2 2012, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of  
3 other license plates. Professional firefighters distinctive  
4 license plates as provided by this section shall be prepared  
5 and furnished for the licensing year commencing January 1,  
6 2016, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of  
7 other license plates.

8 "(e) The Department of Revenue may ~~promulgate~~ adopt  
9 any rules necessary to administer this section."

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

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House of Representatives

Read for the first time and re-  
ferred to the House of Representa-  
tives committee on Public Safety  
and Homeland Security..... 02-FEB-21

Read for the second time and placed  
on the calendar 1 amendment ..... 10-FEB-21

Read for the third time and passed  
as amended..... 23-FEB-21

Yeas 93, Nays 8, Abstains 1

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk