



**House Ways and Means General Fund Reported  
Substitute for HB72**

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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to motor vehicle registration; to amend Sections 32-6-271 and 32-6-280, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the fees for volunteer and professional firefighter distinctive motor vehicle license plates and to provide for the distribution of the fees collected.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 32-6-271 and 32-6-280, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§32-6-271

(a) A firefighter, upon application and subject to this division, may be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license plate as identification as a firefighter. In addition to the proper numbers, words, and insignias used on the standard license plate issued for motor vehicles, the distinctive plates issued to firefighters shall bear a red Maltese cross emblem on each side to the left and right of the regular tag numbers. The ~~words~~ word "Fire Fighter" should be centered at the bottom of the license plate.

(b) In addition to any other fees provided for by law, an annual additional fee of ~~one dollar (\$1.00)~~ ten dollars



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29 (\$10) is added to the cost of the firefighter distinctive  
30 license plate provided for in this division, ~~effective January~~  
31 ~~1, 2022~~. The **annual additional fee** collected pursuant to this  
32 section shall be distributed by each licensing official to the  
33 ~~state~~ Comptroller, **less the commission provided in Section**  
34 **40-12-269(a)(1)**. The ~~state~~ Comptroller shall distribute the  
35 total net proceeds monthly as follows:

36 (1) ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ **Fifteen percent (15%)** shall be  
37 deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire  
38 Council and shall be used for the purpose of expanding and  
39 maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in  
40 Tuscaloosa.

41 (2) ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ **Fifteen percent (15%)** shall be  
42 distributed to the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for  
43 expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support Program.

44 (3) **Thirty-five percent (35%)** shall be distributed to  
45 the board of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit  
46 Fund.

47 (4) **Thirty-five percent (35%)** shall be distributed to  
48 the secretary-treasurer of the State of Alabama Firefighters  
49 Emergency Relief Fund.

50 (c) The funds generated by ~~this~~ the additional fee in  
51 subsection (b) shall be subject to audit from either the  
52 Department of Examiners of Public Accounts or an independent  
53 certified public accountant once every three calendar years  
54 ~~effective January 1, 2022.~~"

55 "§32-6-280

56 (a) As used in this ~~section~~ division, the following



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57 terms~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

58 (1) ~~Professional firefighter~~PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER.

59 ~~means a~~A paid member of a paid or part-paid fire department of  
60 a city, town, county, or other subdivision of the state,  
61 including the chief, assistant chief, warden, engineer,  
62 captain, ~~firemen~~ firefighters, and all other officers and  
63 employees of the department who actually engage in ~~fire~~  
64 ~~fighting~~ firefighting or rendering first aid at the scene of  
65 an accident.

66 (2) ~~Retired professional firefighter~~RETIRED

67 PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER. ~~means a~~A retired member of a paid or  
68 part-paid fire department of a city, town, county, or other  
69 subdivision of the state, including the chief, assistant  
70 chief, warden, engineer, captain, ~~firemen~~ firefighters, and  
71 all other officers and employees of the department who  
72 actually engaged in ~~fire fighting~~ firefighting or rendering  
73 first aid at the scene of an accident. Notwithstanding any  
74 other provision of this division, ~~retired professional~~  
75 ~~firefighter~~ the term includes a retired professional  
76 firefighter who is a resident of this state and who has  
77 retired from a professional fire department in another state  
78 and otherwise meets the requirements of this ~~section~~division.

79 (b) (1) Notwithstanding Sections 32-6-64, 32-6-67, and  
80 32-6-68, a professional firefighter or a retired professional  
81 firefighter, upon application and subject to ~~the provisions of~~  
82 this ~~section~~ division, may be issued a distinctive motor  
83 vehicle license plate as identification as a professional  
84 firefighter or a retired professional firefighter, ~~and a~~



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85 ~~professional firefighter, upon application and subject to this~~  
86 ~~section, may be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license~~  
87 ~~plate as identification as a professional firefighter.~~

88 (2) In addition to the proper numbers, words, and  
89 insignias used on the standard license plate issued for motor  
90 vehicles, the distinctive ~~plates so~~ license plate issued for a  
91 retired professional firefighter shall have a design created  
92 by the state association of professional firefighters in  
93 coordination with the Mobile Retired Firefighters and  
94 Paramedics Association and the Tuscaloosa Retired Firefighters  
95 Association, and the distinctive license plate ~~so~~ issued for a  
96 professional firefighter shall have a design created by the  
97 state association of professional firefighters.

98 (c) (1) The distinctive license plates ~~provided herein~~  
99 shall be approved by the Commissioner of Revenue and shall be  
100 issued through the judge of probate, license commissioner, or  
101 other license issuing official of the several counties of the  
102 state in the same manner as are other motor vehicle license  
103 plates, and the officers shall be entitled to their regular  
104 fees for the service.

105 (2) By December 1 of each year, the Firefighters'  
106 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall submit to  
107 the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other  
108 license issuing official of each county a list of eligible  
109 professional firefighters and retired professional  
110 firefighters ~~retired from paid or part-paid fire departments~~  
111 ~~under this section~~. The Firefighters' Personnel Standards and  
112 Education Commission shall also add to the list any retired



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113 professional firefighter ~~retired from a paid or part-paid fire~~  
114 ~~department in~~ from another state who submits proof to the  
115 commission of eligibility pursuant to this division. ~~The~~  
116 ~~Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission~~  
117 ~~shall also submit to the judge of probate, the license~~  
118 ~~commissioner, or other license issuing official of each county~~  
119 ~~a list of eligible professional firefighters from paid or~~  
120 ~~part-paid fire departments.~~

121 (3) Any ~~person~~ individual who joins a paid or part-paid  
122 fire department after December 1 of any year or any ~~person~~  
123 individual who is omitted from the list prepared as described  
124 in subdivision (2) may obtain a distinctive license plate by  
125 presenting to the license issuing official proof of his or her  
126 membership in a paid or part-paid fire department by means of  
127 a certificate signed by the chief of the department on a form  
128 prescribed by the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and  
129 Education Commission.

130 (4) Upon the initial application for a retired  
131 professional firefighter distinctive license plate ~~under this~~  
132 ~~section~~, an applicant for a distinctive license plate ~~provided~~  
133 ~~in this section~~ shall present to the judge of probate, the  
134 license commissioner, or other license issuing official of the  
135 county, proof of his or her retirement from a fire department  
136 that is included on the list provided by the Firefighters'  
137 Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Proof of the  
138 ~~person's~~ individual's retirement from a fire department  
139 included on ~~the~~ that list ~~from the Firefighters' Personnel~~  
140 ~~Standards and Education Commission~~ is not required for renewal



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141 of the distinctive license plate.

142 (5) Upon ~~the applicant~~ submitting proof of his or her  
143 identification, the professional firefighter or retired  
144 professional firefighter shall be issued the requested number  
145 of distinctive license plates upon the payment of the regular  
146 fee for license plates, as provided by law, ~~but shall not be~~  
147 ~~required to pay the three dollar (\$3) fee.~~

148 ~~(6) Upon the applicant submitting proof of his or her~~  
149 ~~identification, the retired professional firefighter shall be~~  
150 ~~issued the requested number of distinctive license plates upon~~  
151 ~~the payment of the regular license fee for plates, as provided~~  
152 ~~by law, but shall not be required to pay the three dollar (\$3)~~  
153 ~~fee.~~

154 ~~(7)~~ (6) The distinctive license plates ~~so issued~~ shall  
155 be used only upon and for personally owned, private passenger  
156 vehicles, ~~to include station wagons and pick-up trucks,~~  
157 registered in the name of the retired professional firefighter  
158 or professional firefighter ~~making application therefor~~, and  
159 when ~~so~~ issued to the applicant shall be used upon the vehicle  
160 for which issued in lieu of the standard license plates  
161 normally issued for the vehicle.

162 ~~(8)a.~~ (7)a. In addition to any other fees provided for  
163 by law, an annual additional fee of ~~one~~ ten dollars ~~(\$1.00)~~  
164 (\$10) is added to the cost of the retired professional  
165 firefighter and the professional firefighter distinctive  
166 license plates provided for in this division, ~~effective~~  
167 ~~January 1, 2022.~~ The annual additional fee collected pursuant  
168 to this ~~section~~ paragraph shall be distributed by each



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169 licensing official to the ~~state~~ Comptroller, less the  
170 commission provided in Section 40-12-269(a)(1). The ~~state~~  
171 Comptroller shall distribute the total net proceeds monthly as  
172 follows:

173 1. ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ Fifteen percent (15%) shall be  
174 deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire  
175 Council and shall be used for the purpose of expanding and  
176 maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in  
177 Tuscaloosa.

178 2. ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ Fifteen percent (15%) shall be  
179 distributed to the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for  
180 expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support Program.

181 3. Thirty-five percent (35%) shall be distributed to  
182 the board of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit  
183 fund.

184 4. Thirty-five percent (35%) shall be distributed to  
185 the secretary-treasurer of the State of Alabama Firefighters  
186 Emergency Relief Fund.

187 b. The funds generated by ~~this~~ the additional fee shall  
188 be subject to audit from either the Department of Examiners of  
189 Public Accounts or an independent certified public accountant  
190 once every three calendar years ~~effective January 1, 2022.~~

191 ~~(9)~~ (8) Anyone who is proven to have either falsely  
192 obtained or certified an individual to obtain a distinctive  
193 professional firefighter or retired professional firefighter  
194 license plate ~~or a distinctive professional firefighter~~  
195 ~~license plate~~ shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, ~~and~~  
196 ~~upon conviction, shall be punished according to law.~~



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197 (d) Retired professional ~~firefighters~~ firefighter  
198 distinctive license plates and professional firefighter  
199 distinctive license plates ~~as provided by this section~~ shall  
200 be prepared and furnished ~~for the licensing year commencing~~  
201 ~~January 1, 2012, and thereafter~~ as is provided by law for the  
202 issuance of other license plates. ~~Professional firefighters~~  
203 ~~distinctive license plates as provided by this section shall~~  
204 ~~be prepared and furnished for the licensing year commencing~~  
205 ~~January 1, 2016, and thereafter as is provided by law for the~~  
206 ~~issuance of other license plates.~~

207 (e) The Department of Revenue may adopt ~~any~~ rules  
208 necessary to administer this ~~section~~ division."

209 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January  
210 1, 2026.