

## HB72 INTRODUCED



1 HB72  
2 XGKUE7Z-1  
3 By Representative Whorton  
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund  
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25  
6 PFD: 04-Dec-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would increase the fees for volunteer and professional firefighter distinctive motor vehicle license plates and would provide for the distribution of the fees collected.

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



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29 plates issued to firefighters shall bear a red Maltese cross  
30 emblem on each side to the left and right of the regular tag  
31 numbers. The ~~words~~ word "Fire Fighter" should be centered at  
32 the bottom of the license plate.

33 (b) In addition to any other fees provided for by law,  
34 an annual additional fee of ~~one dollar (\$1.00)~~ ten dollars  
35 (\$10) is added to the cost of the firefighter distinctive  
36 license plate provided for in this division, ~~effective January~~  
37 ~~1, 2022~~. The ~~annual additional fee~~ combined fees collected  
38 pursuant to this section shall be distributed by each  
39 licensing official to the ~~state~~ Comptroller. ~~The state~~  
40 ~~Comptroller~~, who shall distribute the total net proceeds  
41 monthly as follows:

42 (1) ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ One dollar fifty cents (\$1.50)  
43 shall be deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint  
44 Fire Council and shall be used for the purpose of expanding  
45 and maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in  
46 Tuscaloosa.

47 (2) ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ One dollar fifty cents (\$1.50)  
48 shall be distributed to the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be  
49 used for expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support  
50 Program.

51 (3) Three dollars fifty cents (\$3.50) shall be  
52 distributed to the board of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity  
53 and Benefit Fund.

54 (4) Three dollars fifty cents (\$3.50) shall be  
55 distributed to the secretary-treasurer of the State of Alabama  
56 Firefighters Emergency Relief Fund.



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57 (c) The funds generated by ~~this~~ the additional fees  
58 under subsection (b) shall be subject to audit from either the  
59 Department of Examiners of Public Accounts or an independent  
60 certified public accountant once every three calendar years  
61 ~~effective January 1, 2022.~~"

62 "§32-6-280

63 (a) As used in this ~~section~~ division, the following  
64 terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

65 (1) ~~Professional firefighter~~ PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER.  
66 ~~means a~~ A paid member of a paid or part-paid fire department of  
67 a city, town, county, or other subdivision of the state,  
68 including the chief, assistant chief, warden, engineer,  
69 captain, ~~firemen~~ firefighters, and all other officers and  
70 employees of the department who actually engage in ~~fire~~  
71 ~~fighting~~ firefighting or rendering first aid at the scene of  
72 an accident.

73 (2) ~~Retired professional firefighter~~ RETIRED  
74 PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER. ~~means a~~ A retired member of a paid or  
75 part-paid fire department of a city, town, county, or other  
76 subdivision of the state, including the chief, assistant  
77 chief, warden, engineer, captain, ~~firemen~~ firefighters, and  
78 all other officers and employees of the department who  
79 actually engaged in ~~fire fighting~~ firefighting or rendering  
80 first aid at the scene of an accident. Notwithstanding any  
81 other provision of this division, ~~retired professional~~  
82 ~~firefighter~~ the term includes a retired professional  
83 firefighter who is a resident of this state and who has  
84 retired from a professional fire department in another state



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85 and otherwise meets the requirements of this ~~section~~ division.

86 (b) (1) Notwithstanding Sections 32-6-64, 32-6-67, and  
87 32-6-68, a professional firefighter or a retired professional  
88 firefighter, upon application and subject to ~~the provisions of~~  
89 this ~~section~~ division, may be issued a distinctive motor  
90 vehicle license plate as identification as a professional  
91 firefighter or a retired professional firefighter, ~~and a~~  
92 ~~professional firefighter, upon application and subject to this~~  
93 ~~section, may be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license~~  
94 ~~plate as identification as a professional firefighter.~~

95 (2) In addition to the proper numbers, words, and  
96 insignias used on the standard license plate issued for motor  
97 vehicles, the distinctive ~~plates so~~ license plate issued for a  
98 retired professional firefighter shall have a design created  
99 by the state association of professional firefighters in  
100 coordination with the Mobile Retired Firefighters and  
101 Paramedics Association and the Tuscaloosa Retired Firefighters  
102 Association, and the distinctive license plate ~~so~~ issued for a  
103 professional firefighter shall have a design created by the  
104 state association of professional firefighters.

105 (c) (1) The distinctive license plates ~~provided herein~~  
106 shall be approved by the Commissioner of Revenue and shall be  
107 issued through the judge of probate, license commissioner, or  
108 other license issuing official of the several counties of the  
109 state in the same manner as are other motor vehicle license  
110 plates, and the officers shall be entitled to their regular  
111 fees for the service.

112 (2) By December 1 of each year, the Firefighters'



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

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

137 (4) Upon the initial application for a retired  
138 professional firefighter distinctive license plate ~~under this~~  
139 ~~section~~, an applicant for a distinctive license plate ~~provided~~  
140 ~~in this section~~ shall present to the judge of probate, the



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141 license commissioner, or other license issuing official of the  
142 county, proof of his or her retirement from a fire department  
143 that is included on the list provided by the Firefighters'  
144 Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Proof of the  
145 ~~person's~~ individual's retirement from a fire department  
146 included on ~~the~~ that list ~~from the Firefighters' Personnel~~  
147 ~~Standards and Education Commission~~ is not required for renewal  
148 of the distinctive license plate.

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

155 ~~(6) Upon the applicant submitting proof of his or her~~  
156 ~~identification, the retired professional firefighter shall be~~  
157 ~~issued the requested number of distinctive license plates upon~~  
158 ~~the payment of the regular license fee for plates, as provided~~  
159 ~~by law, but shall not be required to pay the three dollar (\$3)~~  
160 ~~fee.~~

161 ~~(7)~~ (6) The distinctive license plates ~~so issued~~ shall  
162 be used only upon and for personally owned, private passenger  
163 vehicles, ~~to include station wagons and pick-up trucks,~~  
164 registered in the name of the retired professional firefighter  
165 or professional firefighter ~~making application therefor~~, and  
166 when ~~so~~ issued to the applicant shall be used upon the vehicle  
167 for which issued in lieu of the standard license plates  
168 normally issued for the vehicle.



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169 ~~(8)a.~~ (7)a. In addition to any other fees provided for  
170 by law, an annual additional fee of ~~one~~ eleven dollars ~~—(\$1.00)—~~  
171 (\$11) is added to the cost of the retired professional  
172 firefighter and the professional firefighter distinctive  
173 license plates provided for in this division, ~~effective~~  
174 ~~January 1, 2022~~. The annual additional fee collected pursuant  
175 to this ~~section~~ paragraph shall be distributed by each  
176 licensing official to the ~~state~~ Comptroller, who shall  
177 distribute monthly fifty cents (\$0.50) of each fee into a fund  
178 managed by the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for the  
179 purpose of expanding and maintaining the Alabama Firefighter  
180 Memorial located in Tuscaloosa and fifty cents (\$0.50) of each  
181 fee to the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for expenses  
182 associated with the First Responder Peer Support Program.

183 b. Effective January 1, 2026, an annual additional fee  
184 of ten dollars (\$10) is added to the cost of the professional  
185 firefighter distinctive license plates provided for in this  
186 paragraph. The combined fees shall be distributed by each  
187 licensing official to ~~The the state~~ Comptroller, who shall  
188 distribute the total net proceeds monthly as follows:

189 1. ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ One dollar fifty cents (\$1.50)  
190 shall be deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint  
191 Fire Council and shall be used for the purpose of expanding  
192 and maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in  
193 Tuscaloosa.

194 2. ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ One dollar fifty cents (\$1.50)  
195 shall be distributed to the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be  
196 used for expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support





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197 Program.

198 3. Three dollars fifty cents (\$3.50) shall be  
199 distributed to the board of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity  
200 and Benefit fund.

201 4. Three dollars fifty cents (\$3.50) shall be  
202 distributed to the secretary-treasurer of the State of Alabama  
203 Firefighters Emergency Relief Fund.

204 ~~b.c.~~ The funds generated by ~~this~~ the additional fee  
205 shall be subject to audit from either the Department of  
206 Examiners of Public Accounts or an independent certified  
207 public accountant once every three calendar years ~~effective~~  
208 ~~January 1, 2022.~~

209 ~~(9)~~ (8) Anyone who is proven to have either falsely  
210 obtained or certified an individual to obtain a distinctive  
211 professional firefighter or retired professional firefighter  
212 license plate ~~or a distinctive professional firefighter~~  
213 ~~license plate~~ shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, ~~and~~  
214 ~~upon conviction, shall be punished according to law.~~

215 (d) Retired professional ~~firefighters~~ firefighter  
216 distinctive license plates and professional firefighter  
217 distinctive license plates ~~as provided by this section~~ shall  
218 be prepared and furnished ~~for the licensing year commencing~~  
219 ~~January 1, 2012, and thereafter~~ as is provided by law for the  
220 issuance of other license plates. ~~Professional firefighters~~  
221 ~~distinctive license plates as provided by this section shall~~  
222 ~~be prepared and furnished for the licensing year commencing~~  
223 ~~January 1, 2016, and thereafter as is provided by law for the~~  
224 ~~issuance of other license plates.~~



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

227 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January  
228 1, 2026.