

HB253 INTRODUCED



1 HB253
2 CXLTTQJ-1
3 By Representatives Whorton, Rigsby, Lomax, Rehm, Smith,
4 Stringer, Robertson, Butler, Bedsole, Brinyark, Kirkland,
5 Pettus, Treadaway, Estes, Kiel, Barnes
6 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
7 First Read: 15-Jan-26



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

(1) ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ Twenty-five percent shall be deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire Council and shall be used for the purpose of expanding and maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in Tuscaloosa.

(2) ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~ Twenty-five percent shall be distributed to the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support Program.

(3) Twenty-five percent shall be distributed to the board of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit Fund.

(4) Twenty-five percent shall be distributed to the secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Firefighters Emergency Relief Fund.

(c) The funds generated by ~~this~~ the fee in subsection (b) shall be subject to audit from either the Department of



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Examiners of Public Accounts or an independent certified public accountant once every three calendar years~~effective January 1, 2022.~~"

"§32-6-280

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

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

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

(b) (1) Notwithstanding Sections 32-6-64, 32-6-67, and



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32-6-68, a professional firefighter or a retired professional firefighter, upon application and subject to ~~the provisions of this section~~ division, may be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license plate as identification as a professional firefighter or a retired professional firefighter, ~~and a professional firefighter, upon application and subject to this section, may be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license plate as identification as a professional firefighter.~~

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

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

(2) By December 1 of each year, the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall submit to the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other



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

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

(4) Upon the initial application for a retired professional firefighter distinctive license plate ~~under this section~~, an applicant for a distinctive license plate ~~provided in this section~~ shall present to the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other license issuing official of the county, proof of his or her retirement from a fire department



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that is included on the list provided by the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Proof of the ~~person's~~ individual's retirement from a fire department included on ~~the~~ that list ~~from the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission~~ is not required for renewal of the distinctive license plate.

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

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

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

~~(8)a.~~ (7)a. In addition to any other fees provided for by law, an annual additional fee of one dollar (\$1.00) is



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added to the cost of the retired professional firefighter~~and~~
~~the professional firefighter distinctive~~ license ~~plates~~plate
provided for in this division,~~effective January 1, 2022~~. The
annual additional fee collected pursuant to this~~section~~
paragraph shall be distributed by each licensing official to
the~~state~~ Comptroller, less the commission provided in Section
40-12-269. The Comptroller shall distribute the total net
proceeds monthly into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire
Council to be used for the purpose of expanding and
maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in
Tuscaloosa.

b. An annual additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) is
added to the cost of the professional firefighter distinctive
license plates provided for in this division. The combined
fees shall be distributed by each licensing official to~~The~~
~~the~~~~state~~ Comptroller, less the commission provided in Section
40-12-269. The Comptroller shall distribute the net proceeds
monthly as follows:

1. ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~Twenty-five percent shall be
deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire
Council and shall be used for the purpose of expanding and
maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in
Tuscaloosa.

2. ~~Fifty cents (\$.50)~~Twenty-five percent shall be
distributed to the Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for
expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer Support Program.

3. Twenty-five percent shall be distributed to the
board of the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit Fund.



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197 4. Twenty-five percent shall be distributed to the
198 secretary-treasurer of the State of Alabama Firefighters
199 Emergency Relief Fund.

200 ~~b.c.~~ The funds generated by ~~this~~ the ~~fee~~fees shall be
201 subject to audit from either the Department of Examiners of
202 Public Accounts or an independent certified public accountant
203 once every three calendar years ~~effective January 1, 2022.~~

204 ~~(9)~~ (8) Anyone who is proven to have either falsely
205 obtained or certified an individual to obtain a distinctive
206 professional firefighter or retired professional firefighter
207 license plate ~~or a distinctive professional firefighter~~
208 ~~license plate~~ shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, ~~and~~
209 ~~upon conviction, shall be punished according to law.~~

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

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

222 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January
223 1, 2027.