

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

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a driver purchasing a
9 distinctive motor vehicle license plate for
10 identification as a firefighter or retired
11 firefighter is required to pay an additional fee of
12 25 cents which is distributed into a fund managed
13 by the Alabama Joint Fire Council and used for the
14 purpose of expanding and maintaining the Alabama
15 Firefighter Memorial in Tuscaloosa.

16 This bill would provide for an annual fee of
17 one dollar for the issuance of distinctive
18 firefighter motor vehicle license plates.

19 This bill would also provide that 50 cents
20 of each dollar collected would be deposited into a
21 fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire Council and
22 used for the purpose of expanding and maintaining
23 the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in
24 Tuscaloosa, and that the other 50 cents of each
25 dollar collected would be distributed to the
26 Alabama Fire College to be used for training

1 expenses associated with the Firefighter Peer
2 Support program.

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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT

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8 Relating to distinctive motor vehicle license
9 plates; to amend Sections 32-6-271 and 32-6-280, Code of
10 Alabama 1975; to provide for an annual fee of one dollar for
11 the issuance of distinctive firefighter motor vehicle license
12 plates; and to provide that 50 cents of each dollar collected
13 would be deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama Joint
14 Fire Council and used for the purpose of expanding and
15 maintaining the Alabama Firefighter Memorial located in
16 Tuscaloosa, and that the other 50 cents of each dollar
17 collected would be distributed to the Alabama Fire College to
18 be used for training expenses associated with the Firefighter
19 Peer Support program.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

23 "§32-6-271.

24 "(a) A firefighter ~~may~~, upon application and subject
25 to the provisions of this division, may be issued a
26 distinctive motor vehicle license plate as identification as a
27 firefighter. In addition to the proper numbers, words, and

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 to be used for training expenses
21 associated with the Firefighter Peer Support Program."

22 "§32-6-280.

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

25 "(1) Professional firefighter means a paid member of
26 a paid or part-paid fire department of a city, town, county,
27 or other subdivision of the state, including the chief,

1 assistant chief, warden, engineer, captain, firemen, and all
2 other officers and employees of the department who actually
3 engage in fire fighting or rendering first aid at the scene of
4 an accident.

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

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

26 "(2) In addition to the proper numbers, words, and
27 insignias used on the standard license plate issued for motor

1 vehicles, the distinctive plates so issued for a retired
2 professional firefighter shall have a design created by the
3 state association of professional firefighters in coordination
4 with the Mobile Retired Firefighters and Paramedics
5 Association and the Tuscaloosa Retired Firefighters
6 Association, and the distinctive license plate so issued for a
7 professional firefighter shall have a design created by the
8 state association of professional firefighters.

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

16 "(2) By December 1 of each year, the Firefighters'
17 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall submit to
18 the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other
19 license issuing official of each county a list of eligible
20 retired professional firefighters retired from paid or
21 part-paid fire departments under this section. The
22 Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission
23 shall also add to the list any retired professional
24 firefighter retired from a paid or part-paid fire department
25 in another state who submits proof to the commission of
26 eligibility pursuant to this division. The Firefighters'
27 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall also submit

1 to the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other
2 license issuing official of each county a list of eligible
3 professional firefighters from paid or part-paid fire
4 departments.

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

14 "(4) Upon the initial application for a retired
15 professional firefighter distinctive license plate under this
16 section, an applicant for a distinctive plate provided ~~herein~~
17 in this section shall present to the judge of probate, the
18 license commissioner, or other license issuing official of the
19 county, proof of his or her retirement from a fire department
20 that is included on the list provided by the Firefighters'
21 Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Proof of the
22 person's retirement from a fire department included on the
23 list from the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education
24 Commission is not required for renewal of the distinctive
25 plate.

26 "(5) Upon the applicant submitting proof of his or
27 her identification, the professional firefighter shall be

1 issued the requested number of distinctive license plates upon
2 the payment of the regular fee for license plates, as provided
3 by law, but shall not be required to pay the three dollar (\$3)
4 fee.

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

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

19 "(8) In addition to any other fees provided for by
20 law, an annual additional fee of ~~twenty-five cents (\$.25)~~ one
21 dollar (\$1.00) is added to the cost of the retired
22 professional firefighter and the professional firefighter
23 distinctive license plates provided for in this division. ~~The~~
24 ~~annual additional fee collected pursuant to this section shall~~
25 ~~be,~~ effective January 1, 2022. The annual additional fee
26 collected pursuant to this section shall be distributed by
27 each licensing official to the state Comptroller. The state

1 Comptroller shall distribute the net proceeds monthly as
2 follows:

3 "a. Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be deposited into a
4 fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire Council and shall be
5 used for the purpose of expanding and maintaining the Alabama
6 Firefighter Memorial located in Tuscaloosa.

7 "b. Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be distributed to the
8 Alabama Fire College to be used for training expenses
9 associated with the Firefighter Peer Support Program.

10 "(9) Anyone who is proven to have either falsely
11 obtained or certified an individual to obtain a distinctive
12 retired professional firefighter license plate or a
13 distinctive professional firefighter license plate shall be
14 guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be
15 punished according to law.

16 "(d) Retired professional firefighters distinctive
17 license plates as provided by this section shall be prepared
18 and furnished for the licensing year commencing January 1,
19 2012, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of
20 other license plates. Professional firefighters distinctive
21 license plates as provided by this section shall be prepared
22 and furnished for the licensing year commencing January 1,
23 2016, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of
24 other license plates.

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

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