

1 HB543
2 184751-2
3 By Representative Scott
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 20-APR-17

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law provides for a professional
9 firefighter distinctive license plate.

10 This bill would provide for an additional
11 annual fee of five dollars (\$5) for the issuance of
12 distinctive firefighter motor vehicle license
13 plates. This bill would provide that the fee would
14 be deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama
15 Firefighter Annuity and Benefit Fund and used for
16 the purpose of investing for the growth of the fund
17 to enhance benefits.

18
19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT

22
23 Relating to the professional firefighter distinctive
24 license plate; to amend Section 32-6-280 of the Code of
25 Alabama 1975; to provide for an additional annual fee; and to
26 provide for the distribution of the fee.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Section 32-6-280 of the Code of Alabama
2 1975, is amended to read as follows:

3 "§32-6-280.

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

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

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

25 "(b) (1) Notwithstanding Sections 32-6-64, 32-6-67,
26 and 32-6-68, a retired professional firefighter, upon
27 application and subject to the provisions of this section, may

1 be issued a distinctive motor vehicle license plate as
2 identification as a retired professional firefighter, and a
3 professional firefighter, upon application and subject to the
4 provisions of this section, may be issued a distinctive motor
5 vehicle license plate as identification as a professional
6 firefighter.

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

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

24 "(2) By December 1 of each year, the Firefighters'
25 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall submit to
26 the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other
27 license issuing official of each county a list of eligible

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

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

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

1 Standards and Education Commission. Proof of the person's
2 retirement from a fire department included on the list from
3 the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission
4 is not required for renewal of the distinctive plate.

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

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

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

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

1 the professional firefighter distinctive license plates
2 provided for in this division. The annual additional fee
3 collected pursuant to this section 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 "(9) In addition to any other fees provided for by
8 law, an annual additional fee of five dollars (\$5) is added to
9 the cost of the professional firefighter distinctive license
10 plate provided for in this section. The additional annual fee
11 shall be deposited into a fund managed by the Alabama
12 Firefighter Annuity and Benefit Fund and used for the purpose
13 of investing for the growth of the fund to enhance benefits.

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

20 "(d) Retired 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 2012, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of
24 other license plates. Professional firefighters distinctive
25 license plates as provided by this section shall be prepared
26 and furnished for the licensing year commencing January 1,

1 2016, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of
2 other license plates.

3 "(e) The Department of Revenue may promulgate any
4 rules necessary to administer this section."

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