

1 SB156  
2 209284-1  
3 By Senator Allen  
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21

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 Joint Fire Council to be used for expenses

1 associated with the Firefighter Peer Support  
2 program.

3  
4 A BILL  
5 TO BE ENTITLED  
6 AN ACT

7  
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 Joint Fire  
18 Council to be used for expenses associated with the  
19 Firefighter 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) (1) In addition to any other fees provided for  
7 by law, an annual additional fee of ~~twenty-five cents (\$.25)~~  
8 one 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 "a. 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 "b. Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be distributed to the  
20 Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for expenses associated  
21 with the Firefighter Peer Support Program.

22 "(2) The funds generated by this fee shall be  
23 subject to audit from either the Alabama Department of  
24 Examiners of Public Accounts or an independent certified  
25 public accountant once every three calendar years effective  
26 January 1, 2022.

27 "\$32-6-280.

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

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

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

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

1 provisions of this section, may be issued a distinctive motor  
2 vehicle license plate as identification as a professional  
3 firefighter.

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

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

21 "(2) By December 1 of each year, the Firefighters'  
22 Personnel Standards and Education Commission shall submit to  
23 the judge of probate, the license commissioner, or other  
24 license issuing official of each county a list of eligible  
25 retired professional firefighters retired from paid or  
26 part-paid fire departments under this section. The  
27 Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission

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

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

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

1 list from the Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education  
2 Commission is not required for renewal of the distinctive  
3 plate.

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

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

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

24 "(8)a. In addition to any other fees provided for by  
25 law, an annual additional fee of ~~twenty-five cents (\$.25)~~ one  
26 dollar (\$1.00) is added to the cost of the retired  
27 professional firefighter and the professional firefighter

1 distinctive license plates provided for in this division. ~~The~~  
2 ~~annual additional fee collected pursuant to this section shall~~  
3 ~~be~~, effective January 1, 2022. The annual additional fee  
4 collected pursuant to this section shall be distributed by  
5 each licensing official to the state Comptroller. The state  
6 Comptroller shall distribute the net proceeds monthly as  
7 follows:

8 "1. Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be deposited into a  
9 fund managed by the Alabama Joint Fire Council and shall be  
10 used for the purpose of expanding and maintaining the Alabama  
11 Firefighter Memorial located in Tuscaloosa.

12 "2. Fifty cents (\$.50) shall be distributed to the  
13 Alabama Joint Fire Council to be used for expenses associated  
14 with the Firefighter Peer Support Program.

15 b. The funds generated by this fee shall be subject  
16 to audit from either the Alabama Department of Examiners of  
17 Public Accounts or an independent certified public accountant  
18 once every three calendar years effective January 1, 2022.

19 "(9) Anyone who is proven to have either falsely  
20 obtained or certified an individual to obtain a distinctive  
21 retired professional firefighter license plate or a  
22 distinctive professional firefighter license plate shall be  
23 guilty of a Class C misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be  
24 punished according to law.

25 "(d) Retired professional firefighters distinctive  
26 license plates as provided by this section shall be prepared  
27 and furnished for the licensing year commencing January 1,

1 2012, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of  
2 other license plates. Professional firefighters distinctive  
3 license plates as provided by this section shall be prepared  
4 and furnished for the licensing year commencing January 1,  
5 2016, and thereafter as is provided by law for the issuance of  
6 other license plates.

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

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