



State of Alabama Department of Revenue

(www.revenue.alabama.gov)
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Assistant Commissioner
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MEMORANDUM

2009-20

TO: License Plate Issuing Officials

FROM: Amy Bright, Supervisor **AB**
Motor Vehicle Division

SUBJECT: New Motor Vehicle Registration Laws

The 2009 Regular Session ended with eight (8) new or amended laws affecting the registration of motor vehicles. Below is a detailed discussion of each law, along with the effective date. Please contact the Registration Section with questions regarding any of the information presented below at tags@revenue.alabama.gov or (334) 242-9006.

Effective Date: August 1, 2009

Act No. 2009-618 Subject: "Volunteer Fire Fighter Registration Fee Exemption"

Amended Code Section(s): 40-12-244

Provisions:

- Provides for one (1) registration fee exemption for a volunteer fire fighter who is a resident of Alabama and is entitled to a distinctive *Fire Fighter* license plate
- Exemption only applies to *Fire Fighter* distinctive license plates
- Documentation required:
 - Certificate currently required from the Alabama Forestry Commission signed by the applicant's fire chief with indication that applicant is a volunteer

Act No. 2009-623 Subject: "Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan Distinctive License Plates"

Amended Code Section(s): 32-6-350, 32-6-350.1

Provisions:

- Provides for two (2) new distinctive military license plate categories for veterans of the Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan campaigns
- The additional fee is \$3.00 in the year of initial issuance of the plate
- Provides that both categories may be personalized for an annual additional fee of \$50.00. Five (5) characters available for personalization for both categories.
- Disability access license plates will be available
- Additional fees will be distributed to the Alabama Veteran's Assistance Fund

- New tag types:

	Prenumbered	Personalized	Disability Access
Operation Iraqi Freedom	OA	OD	OA 01
Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan	OE	OF	OE 01
- Plates may be issued to private passenger vehicles, pickup trucks, and pleasure motor vehicles
- No limit on number of plates that may be obtained
- Documentation required:
 - Military or picture ID; and
 - Certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Act No. 2009-644 Subject: “Fraternal Order of Police Distinctive License Plates”

Amended Code Section(s): 32-6-360, 32-6-361

Provisions:

- Increases the annual additional fee from \$20.00 to \$30.00
- Provides for an FOP motorcycle distinctive license plate
 - New tag type: FQ
- The additional annual fee for a motorcycle plate will be \$30.00
- Documentation required: current FOP membership card only

Act No. 2009-660 Subject: “Rescue Squad Distinctive License Plates”

New Code Section(s): Unknown at this time

Provisions:

- Provides that motor vehicles used by rescue squads, who are members in good standing of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads, shall be exempt from all taxes and motor vehicle license fees
- Section 32-11-2 currently exempts motor vehicles owned by volunteer rescue squads
- Section 40-12-244 currently exempts one vehicle owned by a member of a volunteer rescue squad
- Provides that motor fuels used by vehicles of Rescue Squads who are members in good standing of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads in Alabama shall be exempt from all state and local motor fuel tax
- Alabama Association of Rescue Squads will provide list of rescue squads in good standing to all licensing officials’ offices by December 1st each year

Act No. 2009-743 Subject: “Retired Military Distinctive License Plate for Spouses”

Amended Code Section(s): 32-6-292

Provisions:

- Provides that the spouse of a retired military member or retired reservist may be issued *Retired Military* license plates upon payment of the regular registration fees and taxes

- Provides that upon the death of a *Retired Military* license plate recipient, the surviving spouse may retain one (1) *Retired Military* license plate for the remainder of their lifetime or until they remarry, provided they pay the regular registration fees and taxes
- Documentation required for spouse: dependent ID card

Effective Date: September 1, 2009

Act No. 2009-639 Subject: “Vietnam Veteran Distinctive License Plates”

Amended Code Section(s): 32-6-350

Provisions:

- Provides for an additional fee of \$3.00 during registration renewal years. Additional fee remains \$6.00 during year of initial issuance.
- No limit to number of plates veteran may obtain
- As a reminder, Vietnam Veterans distinctive license plates may be personalized for an annual additional fee of \$50.00, in addition to the fees referenced above
- Additional fees are distributed to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Alabama State Council
- Documentation required: certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

(Detailed information to be provided at a later date)

Act No. 2009-595 Subject: “Alabama Gold Star Family Distinctive License Plates”

New Code Section(s): Unknown at this time

Act No. 2009-637 Subject: “US Marine Corps Distinctive License Plates”

New Code Section(s): Unknown at this time