



State of Alabama Department of Revenue

(www.revenue.alabama.gov)
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36132

December 9, 2015

MICHAEL E. MASON
Assistant Commissioner

JOE W. GARRETT, JR.
Deputy Commissioner

CURTIS E. STEWART
Deputy Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

2015-031

TO: License Plate Issuing Officials/Law Enforcement
County Programmers/System Vendors

FROM: Sherry Helms, Registration Manager SCH
Motor Vehicle Division

SUBJECT: Revision for Memo 2015-30 Legislation Effective January 1, 2016

During the 2015 legislative session, Act 2015-362 was signed into law by Governor Bentley. Memo 2015-030 detailed that an additional annual fee of \$50 is to be collected for any personalized or distinctive license plate issued under Chapter 6, Title 32, except for the following:

- Helping Schools plate
- Retired Educators plate
- any firefighter category plate
- rescue squad plates
- veterans plates and military plates unless otherwise authorized by law
- special access or disability access plates

The God Bless America license plate is authorized by Section 32-6-610 which could be interpreted to indicate the additional \$50 would be due for issuance/renewal of the plate. The Department along with the Governor's legal office has carefully reviewed the language of Act 2015-362 to determine if the God Bless America plate is a distinctive plate within the meaning of the Act. The God Bless America plate falls into a special category of distinctive plates for which there is no current additional fee associated with the purchase of the plate unless personalized (Section 32-6-611). The plain language of the Act does not clearly indicate whether the additional fee should apply or not. Given the statutory ambiguity, the Department along with the Governor's office has determined that the additional \$50 annual fee would not be due for the God Bless America license plate category, unless personalized, as the statutory language within Section 32-6-611 provides.

If you have questions regarding the change, please contact the Registration Unit at: tags@revenue.alabama.gov or (334)242-9006.