

Senate Bill 352

By: Senators Williams of the 6th, Burton of the 5th and Blich of the 7th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 provide that a person who was awarded the Purple Heart citation shall be entitled to a
4 standard Georgia license plate at no charge; to provide that a person who has been awarded
5 a Bronze Star (Valor), Silver Star, or Distinguished Service Cross shall be entitled to receive
6 at no cost a special and distinctive license plate or a standard Georgia license plate; to
7 provide for procedures; to provide for design; to provide for transfer among vehicles; to
8 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
13 inserting at the end of Code Section 40-2-84, relating to special license plates for veterans
14 who were awarded the Purple Heart citation, a new subsection to read as follows:

15 "(f) In lieu of the special license plate provided for in this Code section, a veteran may
16 receive a standard Georgia license plate under the same terms and conditions."

17 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

18 Said article is further amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:

19 "40-2-86.7.

20 (a) Motor vehicle or boat trailer owners who are veterans of the armed forces of the United
21 States who have been awarded the Bronze Star (Valor), Silver Star, and Distinguished
22 Service Cross citation shall be eligible to receive at no cost a special and distinctive vehicle
23 license plate or a standard Georgia license plate for a private passenger car or truck used
24 for personal transportation or for a boat trailer, provided that the requisite number of
25 applications are received by the commissioner as provided in subsection (b) of this Code

1 section. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws
2 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this
3 chapter.

4 (b) A veteran who qualifies for the special and distinctive license plate pursuant to
5 subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with the commissioner
6 and include the requisite fee. Said applicant may apply for and be limited to not more than
7 one free license plate at a time; provided, however, that upon payment of the regular
8 license fee provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and payment of the manufacturing fee
9 provided for in this Code section, a veteran may obtain an additional distinctive vehicle
10 license plate. The commissioner shall retain all applications received for such special and
11 distinctive license plate until a minimum of 250 applications have been received. After
12 receipt of 250 applications for such distinctive license plate, the commissioner shall design
13 a distinctive license plate as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and issue the
14 distinctive license plates to present and future qualifying applicants. If the commissioner
15 does not receive the required minimum 250 applications no later than July 31 of the year
16 preceding the year of issuance of such plates, the commissioner shall not accept any
17 applications for nor issue such distinctive license plates and all fees shall be refunded to
18 applicants. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
19 necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation
20 of private passenger cars and trucks and boat trailers before issuing these license plates in
21 lieu of the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for each additional special
22 and distinctive license plate shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized
23 to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where
24 such vehicles have been transferred or sold. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
25 Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

26 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
27 this chapter for private passenger cars or trucks used for personal transportation or for boat
28 trailers. Additional words or symbols, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by
29 law, shall be inscribed upon such license plates so as to identify distinctively the owner as
30 a Bronze Star (Valor), Silver Star, or Distinguished Service Cross recipient, as appropriate.

31 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
32 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased veteran of the
33 armed forces of the United States who was awarded a Bronze Star (Valor), Silver Star, or
34 Distinguished Service Cross citation shall continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive
35 personalized license plate as provided in this Code section for any vehicle owned by such
36 veteran ownership of which is transferred to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle

1 owned by such surviving spouse either at the time of the qualifying veteran's death or
2 acquired thereafter, so long as such person does not remarry.

3 (e) For each additional special license plate issued under this Code section there shall be
4 an additional \$25.00 annual registration fee which fee shall be collected by the county tag
5 agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state
6 as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

7 **SECTION 2.**

8 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.