

The Senate Finance and Public Utilities Committee offered the following substitute to SB 281:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 registering and licensing of vehicles, so as to provide for a special license plate recognizing
3 registered professional nurses or supporters of nursing; to provide for purposes, design,
4 applications, fees, issuance, revenues, renewals, and transfer; to provide for related matters;
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

7 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registering and
8 licensing of vehicles, is amended by adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.7 to read as follows:

9 "40-2-86.7.

10 (a) In order to recognize the nursing profession in the state so as to promote nursing as a
11 career choice in light of current and recurrent nursing shortages and to provide financial
12 support through scholarship assistance to students enrolled in any public or private nursing
13 degree program accredited or approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing and leading to
14 initial licensure as a registered professional nurse, there shall be issued beginning on
15 January 1, 2003, special license plates.

16 (b) The commissioner, in cooperation with designated representatives from the Georgia
17 Nurses Association, the Georgia Nurses Foundation, and the Georgia Association of
18 Nursing Students, shall design a special distinctive license plate appropriate for the
19 purposes provided by this Code section. Such special license plate shall be of the same size
20 as general issue motor vehicle license plates and shall include an identifying number of not
21 more than six digits and a logo or emblem associated with the nursing profession
22 immediately to the left of such number. The identifying number may be customized by
23 special order. No two recipients shall receive identically numbered plates. Such design
24 shall not include a space for a county name decal but shall instead bear the words
25

1 'Nursing...A Caring Profession' so as to distinctively identify the owner as either a
2 registered professional nurse or a supporter of nursing.

3 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, this Code section
4 shall not be implemented until such time as the State of Georgia has, through a licensing
5 agreement or otherwise, received such license or other permission as may be required to
6 implement this Code section. The design of the initial edition of such special license plate,
7 as well as the design of subsequent editions and excepting only any part or parts of the
8 designs owned by others and licensed to the state, shall be owned solely by the State of
9 Georgia for its exclusive use and control, except as authorized by the commissioner.

10 (d) On or after January 1, 2003, any Georgia resident who is either a registered
11 professional nurse or a supporter of nursing may submit an application to the commissioner
12 for a special and distinctive vehicle license plate identifying the owner as a registered
13 professional nurse or a supporter of nursing for a private car, truck, or motorcycle used for
14 personal transportation.

15 (e) Such special license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle
16 laws relating to the registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2
17 of this chapter and upon payment of a fee of not more than \$25.00 in addition to the regular
18 motor vehicle registration fee. Any application for such special license plate shall be
19 issued within 30 days of such application. Revalidation decals shall, upon payment of fees
20 required by law, plus an additional renewal fee of \$25.00 and collected by the county tag
21 agent and remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34, be issued for such
22 special license plates in the same manner provided for general issue license plates.

23 (f) The funds derived from the sale of such special license plates and renewal fees, less a
24 \$1.00 processing fee which shall be granted to county tag offices per plate sold, and less
25 the actual manufacturing cost of the plates, shall be deposited in the general fund of the
26 state treasury. As soon as practicable after the end of each year, the commissioner shall
27 report the net amount derived from the sale and renewal of such special license plates to
28 the Georgia Student Finance Commission. It is the intent of the General Assembly that,
29 subject to appropriation, an amount equal to the net proceeds derived from the sale and
30 renewal of such special license plates in any fiscal year shall be made available during the
31 following fiscal year by transmission from the commissioner of the Department of Revenue
32 to the director of the Georgia Student Finance Commission to be used to provide
33 scholarship assistance to students enrolled in any public or private nursing degree program
34 accredited or approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing and leading to initial licensure as
35 a registered professional nurse. The Georgia Student Finance Commission may retain for
36 administrative costs associated with its administration of the provisions of this subsection

1 no more than 5 percent of the amount of funds received from the Department of Revenue
2 in any fiscal year pursuant to this subsection. An application for such a scholarship will
3 be processed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission using such criteria as is normal
4 and customary for determining the award, if any, of financial assistance to students of any
5 discipline. The Georgia Student Finance Commission may seek and obtain advice and
6 counsel from the Georgia Nurses Foundation, the Georgia Nurses Association, the Georgia
7 Association of Nursing Students, and other nursing organizations regarding such
8 scholarships. No later than 30 days after the end of a fiscal year, the director of the
9 Georgia Student Finance Commission shall make available to the public the name of each
10 scholarship recipient and the amount of the award during that fiscal year.

11 (g) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be transferred from one
12 vehicle to another vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 40-2-80."

13 SECTION 2.

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