

House Bill 1501

By: Representatives Lanier of the 145th, Powell of the 23rd, Forster of the 3rd and Stephens of the 150th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-85.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 special and distinctive license plates for veterans, so as to provide for special and distinctive
3 motorcycle license plates for veterans; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

6 Code Section 40-2-85.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special and
7 distinctive license plates for veterans, is amended by striking said Code section and inserting
8 in its place the following:

9 "40-2-85.1.

10 (a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are retired veterans of the armed forces of the United
11 States or persons who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the
12 Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm shall be eligible to receive special and
13 distinctive vehicle license plates for private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, or
14 recreational vehicles used for personal transportation. Such license plates shall be issued
15 in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of
16 motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter.

17 (2)(A) Motor vehicle owners who retired from active duty with the armed forces of the
18 United States shall be issued upon application for and upon compliance with the state
19 motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles a retired
20 veteran's license plate. One such retired veteran's license plate shall be issued without
21 the requisite registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee.

22 (B) Each retired member of the armed forces shall be entitled to no more than one such
23 free license plate at a time; provided, however, that upon payment of a manufacturing
24 fee of \$25.00, a member shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each
25 additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be
26 an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the

1 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted
2 to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

3 (b) The commissioner shall design a retired veteran's license plate or a distinctive license
4 plate to commemorate service by the United States armed forces in wars listed in
5 subsection (a) of this Code section. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and
6 regulations as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating
7 to the use and operation of private passenger cars, motorcycles, and trucks before issuing
8 these license plates in lieu of the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for
9 such special and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is
10 specifically authorized to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure
11 compliance in instances where such vehicles have been transferred or sold. Except as
12 provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

13 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
14 this chapter for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal
15 transportation. Such plates shall contain such words or symbols, in addition to the numbers
16 and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the owners as retired veterans
17 of the armed forces of the United States or persons who served during World War I, World
18 War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm and shall
19 additionally, for such plates manufactured after July 1, 2001, identify distinctly the owner
20 as a veteran of one of the following branches of the armed forces: Army, Navy, Marines,
21 Air Force, or Coast Guard.

22 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
23 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased retired veteran
24 of the armed forces of the United States or of a deceased person who served during World
25 War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm shall
26 continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in
27 this Code section for any vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred
28 to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at
29 the time of the qualifying veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person
30 does not remarry.

31 (e) Special license plates issued under this Code section, except as provided in
32 subparagraph (a)(2)(A) of this Code section, shall be renewed annually with a revalidation
33 decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual
34 registration fee which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection
35 of other registration fees and remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. It
36 shall be a requirement that a county name decal shall be affixed and displayed on license
37 plates issued under this Code section."

1 **SECTION 2.**

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