

Senate Bill 507

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Dean of the 31st and Hooks of the 14th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the Department of Archives and History, so as to provide for a combat veterans  
3 gravesites restoration support program; to provide for funds and rules related thereto; to  
4 amend Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating  
5 to registration and licensing of motor vehicles generally, so as to provide for special license  
6 plates promoting such program and related activities; to provide for issuance, renewal, fees,  
7 licensing agreements, applications, transfers, and disposition of funds relative to such license  
8 plates; to provide an effective date; to provide for contingent repeal; to repeal conflicting  
9 laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
13 Department of Archives and History, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as  
14 follows:

15 "45-13-51.

16 The Secretary of State shall establish a combat veterans gravesites restoration support  
17 program. The department shall utilize moneys placed in a special fund for such program  
18 as derived from special license plate sales, any funds appropriated to the department for  
19 such purposes, and any voluntary contributions or other funds made available to the  
20 department for such purposes for the implementation, operation, and support of such  
21 program. The Secretary of State is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to direct  
22 and administer the combat veterans gravesites restoration support program and to carry out  
23 this Code section."

**SECTION 2.**

Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles generally, is amended by adding, following Code Section 40-2-49.2, a new Code Section 40-2-49.3 to read as follows:

"40-2-49.3.

(a) In order to promote and financially provide for a combat veterans gravesites restoration support program, there shall be issued beginning January 1, 2003, special license plates promoting the program provided for in Code Section 45-13-51.

(b) The Department of Archives and History, in cooperation with the commissioner, shall design special distinctive license plates appropriate to promote the combat veterans gravesites restoration support program. Such license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby the total number of characters does not exceed six. The design of such license plates shall include crossed staffs bearing the first national flag of the United States, known as the 'Betsy Ross Flag,' and the first national flag of the Confederacy, known as the 'Stars and Bars.' No two recipients shall receive identically numbered plates. Such design shall provide space in which to indicate the name of the county of issuance.

(c) Beginning in calendar year 2003, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of a fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be issued a combat veterans gravesites restoration support program license plate. Revalidation decals shall be issued for such special license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license plates.

(d) The funds derived from the additional fee for such special license plates, less a \$1.00 processing fee which shall be granted to county tag offices per plate sold and less the actual manufacturing cost of the plates, shall be deposited in the special fund for support of the combat veterans gravesites restoration support program created by Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(m) of the Constitution of the State of Georgia. As soon as practicable after December 31 of each year, the commissioner shall report the net amount derived from the sale of combat veterans gravesites restoration support program license plates to the Department of Archives and History.

(e) An applicant may request a special license plate under this Code section any time during the applicant's registration period. If such a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, the special license plate shall be issued with appropriate decals attached.

(f) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 40-2-42.

1 (g) Special license plates under this Code section shall be issued within 30 days of  
2 application.

3 (h) The foregoing provisions of this Code section notwithstanding, the commissioner shall  
4 retain all applications received for special license plates under this Code section until a  
5 minimum of 1,000 applications has been received. After receipt of 1,000 such applications,  
6 the commissioner shall design the license plates. If the commissioner does not receive the  
7 required minimum number of applications on or before January 31 of the first year of  
8 issuance of such plates, the commissioner shall not accept any applications for such license  
9 plates and all fees shall be refunded to applicants."

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### SECTION 3.

11 (a) This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2003, except as otherwise provided by  
12 subsection (b) of this section.

13 (b) If an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia authorizing the General  
14 Assembly to provide by law for a combat veterans gravesites restoration support program  
15 and for dedication of revenue derived from special license plate fees to such program is not  
16 ratified at the general election in 2002, this Act shall be repealed in its entirety on January  
17 1, 2003, and no such motor vehicle license plates shall be issued pursuant to this Act.

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### SECTION 4.

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