

House Bill 432

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 123rd, Parham of the 122nd, Porter of the 143rd, Roberts of the 162nd, Jamieson of the 22nd and others

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 license plates for certain persons and vehicles,
3 so as to change the provisions relating to additional annual registration fees applicable to
4 prestige license plates; to provide that such additional annual registration fee shall not be
5 applicable to special license plates issued to certain military personnel and certain veterans
6 or retired military personnel; to provide for applicability; to provide an effective date; to
7 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 prestige license plates and special license plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended
12 by striking in its entirety subsection (a) of Code Section 40-2-60, relating to prestige license
13 plates in general, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) Motor vehicle owners who are residents of Georgia, upon complying with the motor
15 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and, except as provided
16 in subsection (c) of this Code section, upon the payment of a fee of \$25.00 in addition to
17 the regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be issued special personalized prestige
18 license plates by the commissioner. Special personalized license plates issued pursuant to
19 this Code section shall be subject to an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 as a
20 condition of obtaining an annual revalidation decal for such license plate which fee shall
21 be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and
22 shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34; provided, however, that
23 the additional annual registration fee shall not apply to special license plates issued
24 pursuant to Code Section 40-2-67, 40-2-85, 40-2-85.1, or 40-2-85.2 or to special license
25 plates issued to persons in addition to free special license plates issued to such persons
26 pursuant to Code Section 40-2-65, 40-2-66, 40-2-73, or 40-2-84."

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended by striking in its entirety subsection (a) of Code Section 40-2-65, relating to special license plates for members of active reserve components of the United States, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are assigned or attached members of troop program units of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or outside the State of Georgia shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle license plates for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Motor vehicle owners who are members of any National Guard unit in a state adjoining the State of Georgia and for whom there is no National Guard unit in the county of their residence shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle plates for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation to identify such vehicle owner as a reservist. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter. No person shall be entitled to more than one free motor vehicle license plate for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a reservist shall be entitled to receive one additional such license plate. ~~For each additional license plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00, which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.~~ Additional words or symbols in addition to numbers and letters prescribed by law shall be inscribed upon such license plates so as to identify distinctively the owner as a member of one of the following branches of the United States military reserve: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard. The commanding officer of each active reserve component program unit or the adjutant general of the National Guard unit of each neighboring state shall, upon request of any reserve member or National Guard member of that unit, respectively, furnish to that member approved documentation supporting the member's current membership in the respective reserve or National Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented annually to the tax commissioner of the county in which the reserve member or National Guard member applies for the special license plate under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year.

(2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired from any branch of the active reserve components whose active reservists are eligible to obtain free motor vehicle license plates under paragraph (1) of this subsection, upon application for license plates and upon

1 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of
 2 motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of this chapter, shall be issued, free of
 3 charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for private passenger cars, motorcycles,
 4 or trucks used for personal transportation. Each such retired member shall be entitled to
 5 no more than one such free plate for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon
 6 payment of the regular license fee provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a
 7 manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a retired member shall be entitled to receive one additional
 8 such license plate. ~~For each additional license plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was~~
 9 ~~required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00, which fee shall be~~
 10 ~~collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and~~
 11 ~~shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.~~ The license plates
 12 issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed
 13 by law, be identical to those issued pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection to
 14 members of the branch of the active reserve component from which that person retired.
 15 The commanding officer of each active reserve component program unit shall, upon
 16 request of any retired reserve member from that unit, furnish to that retired member
 17 approved documentation supporting the retired member's current retired membership
 18 status from that reserve unit. This documentation shall be presented annually to the tax
 19 commissioner of the county in which the retired reserve member applies for the special
 20 license plate under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each
 21 succeeding year."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 Said article is further amended by striking in its entirety subsection (a) of Code Section
 24 40-2-66, relating to special license plates for members of Georgia National Guard, and
 25 inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

26 "(a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are members of the Georgia National Guard, upon
 27 application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws
 28 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of
 29 this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate, as prescribed in that article for
 30 private passenger cars, motorcycles or trucks used for personal transportation. Each
 31 member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such free
 32 plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee provided
 33 for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall be
 34 entitled to one additional such license plate. ~~For each additional license plate for which~~
 35 ~~an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of~~
 36 ~~\$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of~~

1 ~~other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section~~
 2 ~~40-2-34.~~ Additional words or symbols, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed
 3 by law, shall be inscribed upon such license plates so as to identify distinctively the
 4 owner as a member of the Georgia National Guard. The adjutant general of Georgia shall,
 5 upon request of any member of that National Guard unit, furnish to that member
 6 approved documentation supporting the member's current membership in that National
 7 Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented annually to the tax commissioner of
 8 the county in which the National Guard member applies for the special license plate
 9 under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year.

10 (2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired members of the Georgia National Guard, upon
 11 application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws
 12 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of
 13 this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for
 14 private passenger cars, motorcycle or trucks used for personal transportation. Each
 15 retired member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such
 16 free plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee
 17 provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall
 18 be entitled to one additional such license plate. ~~For each additional license plate for~~
 19 ~~which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration~~
 20 ~~fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection~~
 21 ~~of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section~~
 22 ~~40-2-34.~~ The license plates issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the
 23 numbers and letters prescribed by law, be identical to those issued pursuant to paragraph
 24 (1) of this subsection. The adjutant general of Georgia shall, upon request of any member
 25 retired from that National Guard unit, furnish to that retired member approved
 26 documentation supporting the member's retired membership status in that National Guard
 27 unit. This documentation shall be presented annually to the tax commissioner of the
 28 county in which the retired National Guard member applies for the special license plate
 29 under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year."

30 SECTION 4.

31 Said article is further amended by striking in its entirety subsection (a) of Code Section
 32 40-2-67, relating to special license plates for state commanders of nationally chartered
 33 veterans' organizations, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:
 34 "(a) The state commanders of nationally chartered veterans' organizations, upon
 35 application and compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relative to the registration and
 36 licensing of motor vehicles, upon payment of the regular license fees for license plates as

1 provided by law, and upon the payment of an additional initial fee of \$25.00, ~~and an~~
 2 ~~additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the county tag~~
 3 ~~agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted as provided~~
 4 ~~in Code Section 40-2-34,~~ shall be issued license plates as prescribed in Code Section
 5 40-2-31 for use on their official or private passenger automobiles, upon which, in lieu of
 6 the numbers prescribed by said Code section, shall be such figures or symbols indicative
 7 of the office held by such individuals as may be prescribed by the commissioner."

8 SECTION 5.

9 Said article is further amended by striking in its entirety subsection (e) of Code Section
 10 40-2-84, relating to license plates for veterans awarded the Purple Heart, which reads as
 11 follows:

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

16 SECTION 6.

17 Said article is further amended by striking in its entirety subsection (e) of Code Section
 18 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license plates for veterans, and inserting in lieu
 19 thereof a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

20 "(e) Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed annually with
 21 a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31, ~~upon payment of an additional~~
 22 ~~\$25.00 annual registration fee which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the~~
 23 ~~time of collection of other registration fees and remitted to the state as provided in Code~~
 24 ~~Section 40-2-34.~~ It shall be a requirement that a county name decal shall be affixed and
 25 displayed on license plates issued under this Code section."

26 SECTION 7.

27 Said article is further amended by striking in its entirety subsection (e) of Code Section
 28 40-2-85.2, relating to special license plates for veterans of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign
 29 of 1950, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

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

1 transferred between vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. It shall be a
2 requirement that a county name decal shall be affixed and displayed on license plates
3 issued under this Code section."

4 **SECTION 8.**

5 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2002, and shall apply to license plates issued
6 on or after said date.

7 **SECTION 9.**

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