

Senate Bill 281

By: Senator Thomas of the 10th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registering and
9 licensing of vehicles, is amended by adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.6 to read as follows:
10 "40-2-86.6.

11 (a) In order to promote and financially provide for student scholarships for students
12 enrolled in baccalaureate degree nursing programs, so as to promote nursing as a career
13 choice in light of the current and recurrent nursing shortage, there shall be issued beginning
14 on January 1, 2002, special license plates to honor and support registered nurses in
15 recognition of the immeasurable good registered nurses do for the citizens of this state.

16 (b) The commissioner, in cooperation with designated representatives from the Georgia
17 Association of Nursing Students and the Georgia Nurses' Foundation, shall design special
18 distinctive license plate appropriate for the purposes provided by this Code section. Such
19 special license plate shall be of the same size as general issue motor vehicle license plates
20 and shall include a unique design with an 'RN' logo or emblem immediately to the right of
21 the letters and numbers and an identifying number of not more than six digits. No two
22 recipients shall receive identically numbered plates. Such design shall not include a space
23 for a county name decal but shall instead bear the words 'Registered Nurse' so as to
24 distinctively identify the owner as a registered nurse, licensed to practice in the State of
25 Georgia.

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

8 (d) On and after January 1, 2002, any Georgia resident who is a registered nurse pursuant
9 to Chapter 26 of Title 43 may submit an application to the commissioner for a special and
10 distinctive vehicle license plate identifying the owner as a registered nurse for a private car,
11 truck, or motorcycle used for personal transportation.

12 (e) The Georgia Board of Nursing, as defined in Chapter 26 of Title 43, shall furnish to the
13 commissioner a list of the registered nurses who reside in Georgia, updated as necessary.

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

24 (g) The funds derived from the sale of such special license plates and renewal fees, less
25 a \$1.00 processing fee which shall be granted to county tag offices per plate sold, and less
26 the actual manufacturing cost of the plates, shall be deposited in the general fund of the
27 state treasury. As soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year, the commissioner
28 shall report the net amount derived from the sale and renewal of such special license plates
29 to the Georgia Nurses' Foundation. It is the intent of the General Assembly that, subject
30 to appropriation, an amount equal to the net proceeds derived from the sale and renewal of
31 such special license plates in any fiscal year shall be made available during the following
32 fiscal year by transmission from the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to the
33 treasurer of the Georgia Nurses' Foundation to be used to provide scholarships to nursing
34 students currently enrolled in baccalaureate degree nursing programs to promote
35 professional development of future registered nurses in the form of scholarships awarded
36 through the Georgia Association of Nursing Students at the annual Georgia Association of
37 Nursing Students convention. Reports of use of funds shall be provided to the Georgia

1 Nurses' Foundation, the Georgia Association of Nursing Students, and the Board of
2 Regents of the University System of Georgia. Such report shall be available no later than
3 the second Monday of January each year.

4 (h) Should a registered nurse who has been issued a special license plate surrender
5 licensure as a registered nurse for any reason other than retirement from employment, the
6 Georgia Board of Nursing shall obtain the separated member's license plate and shall
7 forward the same to the commissioner along with a certificate to the effect that such person
8 surrendered the license, and thereupon the commissioner shall reissue a regular license
9 plate, at no additional charge, to such former registered nurse to replace the special plate.

10 (i) Motor vehicle owners who were registered nurses pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title 43,
11 and who retired from employment as such shall continue to be eligible for the registered
12 nurse license plates issued under this Code section the same as if they continued to be
13 licensed and employed as a registered nurse.

14 (j) If any resident person who is authorized to obtain a special registered nurse license
15 plate for a jointly owned vehicle dies or for any other reason is no longer a joint owner of
16 such vehicle, the surviving owner of such vehicle shall surrender the license plate to the
17 commissioner and shall obtain a regular license plate upon complying with the motor
18 vehicle laws relating to registration, licensing, and fees.

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

21 SECTION 2.

22 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 40-2-81, relating to space for
23 county name decal, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

24 "~~40-2-81~~ 40-2-9.

25 (a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, any~~ Any metal five-year
26 special, distinctive, or prestige license plate, except those provided for in Code Section
27 40-2-61, Code Section 40-2-62, and Code Section 40-2-82 or as otherwise expressly
28 provided in this chapter, ~~issued or reissued as authorized in this article from and after July~~
29 ~~1, 1985~~, shall contain a space for a county name decal; and the provisions of this chapter
30 relative to county name decals shall be applicable to all such license plates.

31 (b) ~~The requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section shall apply to the following on~~
32 ~~or after January 1, 1990:~~

33 (1) ~~License plates provided for in Code Section 40-2-38;~~

34 (2) ~~License plates provided for in Code Sections 40-2-63 through 40-2-77; or~~

35 (3) ~~License plates issued to school buses, ambulances, or forest products haulers."~~

1 **SECTION 3.**

2 Said chapter is further amended by reserving the designation of Code Section 40-2-81.

3 **SECTION 4.**

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