

House Bill 183 (FLOOR SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 123rd, Parham of the 122nd and Smith of the 19th

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 plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 change the provisions relating to special and distinctive license plates for veterans; to provide
4 that motor vehicle owners who retired from active duty with the armed forces of the United
5 States shall be issued upon application for and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle
6 laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles a retired veteran's license plate;
7 to provide that one such retired veteran's license plate shall be issued without the requisite
8 registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee; to provide for the issuance of
9 additional license plates upon the payment of certain fees; to provide an effective date; to
10 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

13 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
14 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
15 striking in its entirety Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license
16 plates for veterans, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 40-2-85.1 to read as
17 follows:

18 "40-2-85.1.

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

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

6 (B) Each retired member of the armed forces shall be entitled to no more than one such
7 free license plate at a time; provided, however, that upon payment of a manufacturing
8 fee of \$25.00, a member shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each
9 additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be
10 an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the
11 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted
12 to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

13 ~~(b) A veteran who qualifies for the special and distinctive license plate pursuant to~~
14 ~~subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with the commissioner~~
15 ~~and include the requisite fee. The commissioner shall design a retired veteran's license~~
16 ~~plate or a distinctive license plate to commemorate service by the United States armed~~
17 ~~forces in wars listed in subsection (a) of this Code section. The commissioner shall~~
18 ~~promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all~~
19 ~~state license laws relating to the use and operation of private passenger cars and trucks~~
20 ~~before issuing these license plates in lieu of the regular Georgia license plates. The~~
21 ~~manufacturing fee for such special and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The~~
22 ~~commissioner is specifically authorized to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary~~
23 ~~to ensure compliance in instances where such vehicles have been transferred or sold.~~
24 ~~Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, such plates shall be~~
25 ~~nontransferable.~~

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

35 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
36 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased retired veteran
37 of the armed forces of the United States or of a deceased person who served during World

1 War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm shall
2 continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in
3 this Code section for any vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred
4 to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at
5 the time of the qualifying veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person
6 does not remarry.

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

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 This Act shall become effective January 1, 2001.

16 **SECTION 3.**

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