

House Bill 183

By: Representatives Birdsong of the 123rd, Bunn of the 74th, Heckstall of the 55th, Smith of the 19th, Hembree of the 98th 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 plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 provide for special license plates for certain motor vehicle owners who are retired members
4 of the armed forces of the United States; to provide for the issuance of one free special
5 license plate to such retired members of the armed forces of the United States; to provide for
6 the issuance of additional special license plates to such retired military members upon the
7 payment of certain fees; to provide procedures; to provide for the transfer of license plates
8 to other motor vehicles under certain conditions; to provide that a retired member of the
9 armed forces who obtains a free license plate pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall not
10 be eligible for or entitled to a free license plate under certain other provisions of law; to
11 provide for rules and regulations; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and
12 for other purposes.

13 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

14 **SECTION 1.**

15 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
16 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
17 adding between Code Sections 40-2-66 and 40-2-67 a new Code Section 40-2-66.1 to read
18 as follows:

19 "40-2-66.1.

20 (a) Motor vehicle owners who are retired members from a branch of the armed forces of
21 the United States, upon application for license plates and upon compliance with the state
22 motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed
23 under Article 2 of this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate as prescribed
24 in that article for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal
25 transportation. Each retired member of the armed forces shall be entitled to no more than
26 one such free plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license

1 fee provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member
2 shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for
3 which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee
4 of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of
5 other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section
6 40-2-34. Additional words or symbols, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by
7 law, shall be inscribed upon such license plates as to identify distinctly the owner as a
8 retired member of the armed forces. A retired member of the armed forces eligible for a
9 license plate under this Code section shall present approved documentation supporting the
10 member's retired membership status with the armed forces to the tax commissioner of the
11 county in which the member retired from the armed forces applies for the special license
12 plate under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year.

13 (b) Upon transfer of the ownership of a private passenger vehicle upon which there is a
14 license plate authorized under subsection (a) of this Code section and acquisition by the
15 retired member of the armed forces of another motor vehicle, the license plate issued
16 pursuant to this Code section shall be placed on such newly acquired motor vehicle and
17 such retired member shall notify the commissioner of such transfer of the license plate to
18 such newly acquired motor vehicle in such manner as the commissioner may prescribe by
19 regulation and shall pay a transfer and cancellation fee of \$5.00 and shall also pay license
20 fees in an amount, if any, that the license fee for the newly acquired vehicle exceeds the
21 license fee of the original vehicle. No transfer or cancellation fee shall be charged for the
22 transfer of free retired military members license plates. There shall be a transfer and
23 cancellation fee of \$5.00 for the transfer of any other retired military license plate.

24 (c) The commissioner shall make such rules and regulations as necessary to enforce
25 compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation of a private
26 passenger car before issuing retired military members license plates in lieu of the regular
27 Georgia license plates, and all applications for such plates shall be made to the
28 commissioner. The commissioner is specifically authorized to make all rules and
29 regulations necessary to make adequate provision for instances where such vehicles have
30 been transferred or sold. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, such
31 plates shall be nontransferable.

32 (d) A retired member of the armed forces who obtains a free license plate pursuant to the
33 provisions of this Code section shall not be eligible for or entitled to a free license plate
34 under any other provisions of this article."

35 SECTION 2.

36 This Act shall become effective January 1, 2002.

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SECTION 3.

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