

House Bill 1009

By: Representatives Franklin of the 39th and Joyce of the 1st

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 certain provisions relating to special and distinctive license plates for veterans; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
9 striking Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license plates for veterans,
10 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11 "40-2-85.1.

12 (a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are retired veterans of the armed forces of the United
13 States or ~~persons~~ United States armed forces veterans who served during World War I,
14 World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, ~~or~~ Operation Desert Storm, or
15 Operation Enduring Freedom shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle
16 license plates for private passenger cars, trucks, or recreational vehicles used for personal
17 transportation. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor
18 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in
19 Article 2 of this chapter, except as otherwise provided in this Code section.

20 (2)(A) ~~Motor vehicle owners who retired from active duty with the armed forces of the~~
21 ~~United States~~ Any retired or wartime veteran of the armed forces who is eligible under
22 subsection (a) of this Code section shall be issued upon application for and upon
23 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of
24 motor vehicles a ~~retired~~ veteran's license plate. One such ~~retired~~ veteran's license plate
25 shall be issued without the requisite registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual

1 ~~registration renewal fee, but such license plates shall be renewed annually with a free~~
 2 ~~revalidation decal which shall be issued as provided in Code Section 40-2-31.~~

3 (B) Each ~~retired member~~ eligible retired or wartime veteran of the armed forces shall
 4 be entitled to no more than one such free license plate at a time; provided, however, that
 5 upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, ~~a member~~ an eligible veteran shall be
 6 entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for which
 7 a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an additional annual registration
 8 fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of
 9 collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in
 10 Code Section 40-2-34. Additional special license plates issued under this subparagraph
 11 shall be renewed annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section
 12 40-2-31 upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual registration fee which fee shall
 13 be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees
 14 and remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

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

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

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

1 wartime as specified in subsection (a) of this Code section shall continue to be eligible to
2 be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in this Code section for any
3 vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred to the surviving spouse
4 or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at the time of the qualifying
5 veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person does not remarry.

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

13

SECTION 2.

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