

House Bill 440

By: Representatives Broome of the 141st, Post 2, Wix of the 33rd, Post 1, Powell of the 23rd,
Royal of the 140th, Morris of the 120th, 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 special motor vehicle license plates, so as to provide for special plates to promote
3 the restoration and maintenance of wild turkey populations; to provide for the design and
4 issuance of such plates; to provide for fees; to provide for reports and intent with respect to
5 funds; to provide for other related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 special motor vehicle license plates, is amended by adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.9 to
10 read as follows:

11 "40-2-86.9.

12 (a) In order to promote the restoration and maintenance of wild turkey populations and the
13 habitats upon which they depend by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Georgia
14 Department of Natural Resources, there shall be issued beginning January 1, 2003, special
15 license plates recognizing the Georgia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

16 (b) The commissioner shall design a special distinctive license plate appropriate for the
17 purposes provided by this Code section. Such special license plate shall be of the same size
18 as general issue motor vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and an
19 identifying number of not more than six digits. No two recipients shall receive identically
20 numbered plates. Such design shall not include a space for a county name decal but shall
21 instead bear the legend 'National Wild Turkey Federation' in lieu of the name of the county
22 of issuance.

23 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, this Code section
24 shall not be implemented until such time as the State of Georgia has, through a licensing
25 agreement or otherwise, received such license or other permission as may be required to
26 implement this Code section. The design of the initial edition of such special license plate,

1 as well as the design of subsequent editions and excepting only any part or parts of the
2 designs owned by others and licensed to the state, shall be owned solely by the State of
3 Georgia for its exclusive use and control, except as authorized by the commissioner. The
4 commissioner may take such steps as may be necessary to give notice of and protect such
5 right, including the copyright or copyrights. However, such steps shall be cumulative of the
6 ownership and exclusive use and control established by this subsection as a matter of law,
7 and no person shall reproduce or otherwise use such design or designs, except as authorized
8 by the commissioner.

9 (d) On and after January 1, 2003, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor
10 vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon
11 complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor
12 vehicles and upon the payment of a fee of not more than \$25.00 in addition to the regular
13 motor vehicle registration fee, shall be issued a special license plate under this Code section
14 in lieu of a general issue license plate. Any application for such special license plate shall
15 be submitted during the owner's registration period, and such special license plate shall be
16 issued within 30 days of such application. Revalidation decals shall, upon payment of fees
17 required by law and collected by the county tag agent and remitted to the state as provided
18 in Code Section 40-2-34, be issued for such special license plates in the same manner as
19 provided for general issue license plates.

20 (e) The funds derived from the sale of such special license plates, less a \$1.00 processing
21 fee which shall be granted to county tag offices per plate sold, shall be deposited in the
22 general fund of the state treasury. As soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year,
23 the commissioner shall report the net amount derived from the sale of such special license
24 plates, not including actual manufacturing costs, to the Office of Planning and Budget and
25 the Department of Natural Resources. It is the intent of the General Assembly that, subject
26 to appropriation, an amount equal to such net proceeds derived from the sale of such
27 license plates in any fiscal year shall be made available during the following fiscal year
28 for activities to promote the restoration and maintenance of the Eastern Wild Turkey
29 population in the State of Georgia, including public land acquisition for such purposes. The
30 Department of Natural Resources shall monitor the response of the turkey populations to
31 any such habitat conservation activities to determine their effectiveness.

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

34 (g) The Department of Natural Resources shall submit a report to the chairpersons of the
35 Senate Natural Resources Committee and the House Committee on Game, Fish, and Parks
36 detailing the revenues derived from the sale of special license plates issued under this Code
37 section and the receipt and expenditure of any funds appropriated for the purposes provided

1 by this Code section. Such report shall be made not later than the second Monday of
2 January of each year."

3 **SECTION 2.**

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