

House Bill 473

By: Representatives Hill of the 16th, Rogers of the 15th, Westmoreland of the 86th, Keen of the 146th, Birdsong of the 104th, 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 a special license plate prominently displaying an image of the flag of the United
4 States; to provide for issuance, renewal, fees, applications, and transfers relative to such
5 special license plates; 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 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
10 adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.9 to read as follows:

11 "40-2-86.9.

12 (a) There shall be issued beginning December 1, 2003, special license plates prominently
13 displaying an image of the flag of the United States.

14 (b) License plates issued under this Code section shall include a unique identifying
15 number, whereby the total number of characters does not exceed six, provided that no two
16 recipients receive identical plates. The license plates shall prominently display an image
17 of the flag of the United States in the center, which image shall occupy at least one-half of
18 the width of the license plates. Such license plates must be of the same size as general
19 issue motor vehicle license plates. Such design shall not provide space in which to indicate
20 the name of the county of issuance but shall instead display the phrase 'Proud To Be An
21 American.'

22 (c) Any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia, upon complying with the motor
23 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and payment of a fee
24 of \$25.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee, shall be issued such a
25 special license plate upon application therefor. Special license plates issued under this
26 Code section shall be renewed annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code

1 Section 40-2-31 upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual registration fee, which fee
2 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees
3 and remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

4 (d) The commissioner shall provide for the design of the special license plates, which
5 design, excepting only the image of the United States flag and the slogan, shall be owned
6 solely by the State of Georgia for its exclusive use and control, except as authorized by the
7 commissioner. The commissioner may take such steps as may be necessary to give notice
8 of and protect such right, including the copyright. However, such steps shall be cumulative
9 of the ownership and exclusive use and control established by this subsection as a matter
10 of law and no person shall reproduce or otherwise use such design, except as authorized
11 by the commissioner.

12 (e) All license plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be issued in compliance
13 with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles.

14 (f) License plates issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
15 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

16 **SECTION 2.**

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