

House Bill 719

By: Representatives Jenkins of the 93rd, Porter of the 119th, Teper of the 42nd, Post 1, Hanner of the 133rd, Moraitakis of the 42nd, Post 4, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-76 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 alternative fueled vehicle license plates, so as to add hybrid vehicles to the definition of
3 alternative fueled vehicles; to amend Code Section 32-9-4 of the Official Code of Georgia
4 Annotated, relating to designation of travel lanes and use of such lanes, so as to provide for
5 the authorization of hybrid vehicles to use designated travel lanes; to provide for related
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 40-2-76 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to alternative
10 fueled vehicle license plates, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting in its place
11 the following:

12 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Alternative fuel' means methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols; mixtures
14 containing 85 percent or more or such other percentage, but not less than 70 percent, as
15 determined by the United States secretary of energy, by rule as it existed on January 1,
16 1997, to provide for requirements relating to cold start, safety, or vehicle functions, by
17 volume of methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols with gasoline or other fuels;
18 natural gas; liquefied petroleum gas; hydrogen; coal derived liquid fuels; fuels other than
19 alcohol derived from biological materials; electricity including electricity from solar
20 energy; and any other fuel the United States secretary of energy determined by rule as it
21 existed on January 1, 1997, is substantially not petroleum and would yield substantial
22 energy security benefits and substantial environmental benefits.

23 (2) 'Alternative fueled vehicle' means:

24 (A) Any any vehicle fueled by alternative fuel as defined in paragraph (1) of this
25 subsection; or

1 (B) A hybrid vehicle, which means a motor vehicle which draws propulsion energy
 2 from onboard sources of stored energy which include an internal combustion or heat
 3 engine using combustible fuel and a rechargeable energy storage system; and, in the
 4 case of a passenger automobile or light truck, means for any 2000 and later model, a
 5 vehicle which has received a certificate of conformity under the Clean Air Act, 42
 6 U.S.C. Section 7401, et seq., and meets or exceeds the equivalent qualifying California
 7 low-emission vehicle standard under Section 243(e)(2) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C.
 8 Section 7583(c)(2), for that make and model year or, for any 2004 and later model, a
 9 vehicle which has received a certificate that such vehicle meets or exceeds the Bin 5
 10 Tier II emission level established in regulations prescribed by the administrator of the
 11 Environmental Protection Agency under Section 202(i) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C.
 12 Section 7521(i), for that make and model year vehicle and which achieves a composite
 13 label fuel economy greater than or equal to 1.5 times the Model Year 2002 EPA
 14 composite class average for the same vehicle class and which is made by a
 15 manufacturer."

16 SECTION 2.

17 Code Section 32-9-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to designation of
 18 travel lanes and use of such lanes, is amended by adding a new subsection (a.1) to read as
 19 follows:

20 "(a.1) Upon approval through either legislative action in the United States Congress or
 21 regulatory action by the United States Department of Transportation to permit hybrid
 22 vehicles with fewer than two occupants to operate in a high occupancy vehicle lane, the
 23 department shall authorize hybrid vehicles, as defined in Code Section 40-2-76, to use the
 24 travel lanes designated for such vehicles as provided in paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of
 25 this Code section."

26 SECTION 3

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