

Senate Bill 470

By: Senators Brush of the 24th, Crotts of the 17th and Mullis of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-84 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 license plates for veterans awarded the Purple Heart, so as to provide that Purple Heart
3 license plates shall be available for motorcycles; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 40-2-84 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to license plates
8 for veterans awarded the Purple Heart, is amended by striking said Code section and
9 inserting in its place the following:

10 "40-2-84.

11 (a) Motor vehicle or boat trailer owners who are veterans of the armed forces of the United
12 States who have been awarded the Purple Heart citation shall be eligible to receive a
13 special and distinctive vehicle license plate for a private passenger car, motorcycle, or truck
14 used for personal transportation or for a boat trailer, provided that the requisite number of
15 applications are received by the commissioner as provided in subsection (b) of this Code
16 section. Such license plate shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws
17 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this
18 chapter.

19 (b) A veteran who qualifies for the special and distinctive license plate pursuant to
20 subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with the commissioner
21 and include the requisite fee. Said applicant may apply for and be limited to not more than
22 one free license plate at a time; provided, however, that upon payment of the regular
23 license fee provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and payment of the manufacturing fee
24 provided for in this Code section, a veteran may obtain an additional such license plate.
25 The commissioner shall retain all applications received for such special and distinctive
26 license plate until a minimum of 250 applications have been received. After receipt of 250

1 applications for such distinctive license plate, the commissioner shall design a distinctive
2 license plate as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and issue the distinctive
3 license plates to present and future qualifying applicants. If the commissioner does not
4 receive the required minimum 250 applications no later than July 31 of the year preceding
5 the year of issuance of such plates, the commissioner shall not accept any applications for
6 nor issue such distinctive license plates and all fees shall be refunded to applicants. The
7 commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to enforce
8 compliance with all state license laws relating to the use and operation of private passenger
9 cars, motorcycles, and trucks and boat trailers before issuing these license plates in lieu of
10 the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for each additional special and
11 distinctive license plate shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized to
12 promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where
13 such vehicles have been transferred or sold. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this
14 Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

15 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
16 this chapter for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal
17 transportation or for boat trailers. Additional words or symbols, in addition to the numbers
18 and letters prescribed by law, shall be inscribed upon such license plates so as to identify
19 distinctively the owner as a Purple Heart recipient.

20 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
21 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased veteran of the
22 armed forces of the United States who was awarded the Purple Heart citation shall continue
23 to be eligible to be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in this Code
24 section for any vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred to the
25 surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at the time
26 of the qualifying veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person does not
27 remarry.

28 (e) For each additional special license plate issued under this Code section there shall be
29 an additional \$25.00 annual registration fee which fee shall be collected by the county tag
30 agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state
31 as provided in Code Section 40-2-34."

32 SECTION 2.

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