

Senate Bill 479

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Harp of the 16th and Thomas of the 2nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to provide for special license plates  
3 commemorating service in the Global War on Terrorism; to provide for issuance, renewal,  
4 fees, licensing agreements, applications, and transfers relative to such license plates; to  
5 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and  
9 licensing of motor vehicles, is amended by adding a new Code Section 40-2-86.9 to read as  
10 follows:

11 "40-2-86.9.

12 (a) Beginning January 1, 2005, motor vehicle owners who are veterans of the Global War  
13 on Terrorism shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates  
14 commemorating their service in the global war on terrorism, subject to the conditions set  
15 forth in this Code section.

16 (b) The commissioner shall design special distinctive license plates to commemorate  
17 service by the United States armed forces in the Global War on Terrorism. Such plates  
18 shall state 'Global War on Terrorism – Iraq' and 'Global War on Terrorism – Afghanistan'  
19 on the face of the license plates. The license plates must be of the same size as general  
20 issue motor vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying  
21 number, whereby the total number of characters does not exceed six. No two recipients  
22 shall receive identically numbered plates. The graphic on the special license plate shall be  
23 placed to the left of the alphanumeric characters and shall be no larger than three inches by  
24 three inches. Such design shall not provide space in which to indicate the name of the  
25 county of issuance. Any person may request the assignment of the first of 100 in a series

1 of license plates upon payment of an additional initial registration fee of \$25.00 for each  
2 license plate requested.

3 (c) Any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered  
4 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws  
5 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of a  
6 manufacturing fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee shall  
7 be issued a license plate commemorating service in the Global War on Terrorism.  
8 Revalidation decals shall be issued for such license plates in the same manner as provided  
9 for general issue license plates.

10 (d) An applicant may request a license plate commemorating service in the Global War  
11 on Terrorism at any time during the applicant's registration period. If such a license plate  
12 is to replace a current valid license plate, such license plate shall be issued with appropriate  
13 decals attached.

14 (e) No special license plate authorized pursuant to this Code section shall be issued except  
15 upon the receipt by the department of at least 1,000 applications. The special license plate  
16 shall have an application period of two years after the effective date of this Code section  
17 for payment of the manufacturing fee. After such time if the minimum number of  
18 applications is not met, the department shall not continue to accept the manufacturing fee,  
19 and all fees shall be refunded to applicants.

20 (f) The department shall not be required to continue to manufacture the special license  
21 plate if the number of active registrations falls below 500 registrations at any time during  
22 the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-31. A current  
23 registrant may continue to renew such special license plate during his or her annual  
24 registration period upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual special tag fee which fee  
25 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees  
26 and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The department  
27 may continue to issue such special license plates that it has in its inventory to assist in  
28 achieving the minimum number of registrations. If the special license plate falls below 500  
29 active registrations at any time during the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of  
30 Code Section 40-2-31, the department must receive 1,000 applications accompanied by the  
31 manufacturing fee to continue to manufacture the license plate.

32 (g) Global War on Terrorism license plates shall be transferred from one vehicle to another  
33 vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 40-2-80.

34 (h) Global War on Terrorism license plates shall be issued within 30 days of application  
35 once the requirements of this Code section have been met."

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**SECTION 2.**

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