

Senate Bill 461

By: Senators Balfour of the 9th and Levetan of the 40th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles, so
2 as to change certain provisions relating to records of certificates of registration and
3 certificates of title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
4 purposes.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles, is amended
8 by striking Code Section 40-2-130, relating to records of certificates of registrations, and
9 inserting in its place the following:

10 "40-2-130.

11 (a) A record of certificates of registration shall be maintained by the commissioner or the
12 commissioner's duly authorized county tag agent. All certificates of registration shall be
13 issued:

14 (1) Under a distinctive tag registration number assigned to the vehicle;

15 (2) Under the identifying number of the vehicle;

16 (3) Alphabetically, under the name of the owner;

17 (4) Under the vehicle title number; and

18 (5) In the discretion of the commissioner, in any other method the commissioner
19 determines.

20 (b) The commissioner is authorized and empowered to provide for photographic and
21 photostatic recording of certificate of registration records in such manner as he may deem
22 expedient. The photographic or photostatic copies authorized in this subsection shall be
23 admitted in evidence in all actions and proceedings to the same extent that the originals
24 would have been admitted.

25 (c) The motor vehicle registration records which the commissioner is required to maintain
26 under this Code section or any other provision are exempt from the provisions of any law

1 of this state requiring that such records be open for public inspection; provided, however,
 2 that, subject to subsection (d) of this Code section, the records of any particular motor
 3 vehicle ~~may be available for inspection~~ may be disclosed for use as provided in the federal
 4 Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. Chapter 123, and by the following:

5 ~~(1) Any law enforcement officer for official law enforcement investigations or for~~
 6 ~~identifying the registrant of a motor vehicle for purposes of use of a traffic-control signal~~
 7 ~~monitoring device pursuant to subsection (f) of Code Section 40-6-20, as certified by the~~
 8 ~~commanding officer of the law enforcement agency making such request;~~

9 ~~(2) The owner of the vehicle. When the title or registration records maintained by the~~
 10 ~~commissioner have not been changed to reflect a new owner of the vehicle, proof of~~
 11 ~~proprietary interest must be submitted prior to release of the information;~~

12 ~~(3) Any judgment creditor of the owner of the vehicle upon the presentation of a fi. fa.;~~

13 ~~(4) Any individual or an authorized agent or representative of such individual involved~~
 14 ~~in a motor vehicle accident either as an operator of a motor vehicle, a passenger in a~~
 15 ~~motor vehicle, or a pedestrian;~~

16 ~~(5)~~(1) Any licensed dealer of new or used motor vehicles;

17 ~~(6) Any person for the purposes of a manufacturer's recall;~~

18 ~~(7)~~(2) Any tax collector, tax receiver, or tax commissioner;

19 ~~(8)~~(3) The director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of
 20 Natural Resources or his or her designee; and

21 ~~(9)~~(4) Any private person who has met the requirements of Code Section 40-2-25,
 22 provided that the information shall be used for the sole purpose of effectuating the
 23 registration or renewal of motor vehicles by electronic or similar means and that the
 24 private person requesting the information has entered into an agreement to provide
 25 electronic services to the commissioner or a county tag agent; provided, further, that the
 26 information made available pursuant to this paragraph for such purpose shall be limited
 27 to the vehicle identification number, the license tag number, the date of expiration of
 28 registration, and the amount of tax owed.

29 ~~(d) The commissioner may, in his or her discretion, authorize the release of registration~~
 30 ~~records to any appropriate governmental official, entity, or agency for the purposes of~~
 31 ~~carrying out official governmental functions or legitimate governmental duties. Except as~~
 32 ~~otherwise required in the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C.~~
 33 ~~Chapter 123, personal information furnished under paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection~~
 34 ~~(c) of this Code section shall be limited to the natural person's name, address, and driver~~
 35 ~~identification number. The personal information obtained by a business under this Code~~
 36 ~~section shall not be resold or redisclosed for any purposes other than those permitted under~~
 37 ~~the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. Chapter 123, without the~~

1 written consent of the individual. Furnishing of information to a business under this Code
 2 section shall be pursuant to a contract entered into by such business and the state which
 3 specifies the consideration to be paid by such business to the state for such information and
 4 the frequency of updates."

5 SECTION 2.

6 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 40-3-23 of the Official Code of
 7 Georgia Annotated, relating to issuance of certificate of title, maintenance of record of
 8 certificates issued, public inspection, furnishing records for fee, and publishing statistical
 9 reports, and inserting in its place the following:

10 "40-3-23.

11 (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's duly authorized county tag agent shall file
 12 each application received and, when satisfied as to its genuineness and regularity and that
 13 the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a certificate of title, shall issue a certificate of
 14 title of the vehicle.

15 (b) The commissioner or the commissioner's duly authorized county tag agent shall
 16 maintain a record of all certificates of title issued:

17 (1) Under a distinctive title number assigned to the vehicle;

18 (2) Under the identifying number of the vehicle;

19 (3) Alphabetically, under the name of the owner;

20 (4) Under the vehicle tag registration number; and

21 (5) In the discretion of the commissioner, in any other method the commissioner
 22 determines.

23 (c) The commissioner or the commissioner's duly authorized county tag agent is
 24 authorized and empowered to provide for photographic and photostatic recording of
 25 certificate of title records in such manner as the commissioner or the commissioner's duly
 26 authorized county tag agent may deem expedient. The photographic or photostatic copies
 27 authorized in this subsection shall be sufficient as evidence in tracing of titles of the motor
 28 vehicles designated therein and shall also be admitted in evidence in all actions and
 29 proceedings to the same extent that the originals would have been admitted.

30 (d) The motor vehicle records which the commissioner or the commissioner's duly
 31 authorized county tag agent is required to maintain under this Code section or any other
 32 provision are exempt from the provisions of any law of this state requiring that such
 33 records be open for public inspection; provided, however, that, subject to subsection (f) of
 34 this Code section, the records of any particular motor vehicle may be available for
 35 inspection may be disclosed for use as provided in the federal Driver's Privacy Protection
 36 Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. Chapter 123, and by the following:

1 ~~(1) Any law enforcement officer for official law enforcement investigations as certified~~
 2 ~~by the commanding officer of the law enforcement agency making such request;~~

3 ~~(2) The owner of the vehicle. When the title or registration records of the department~~
 4 ~~have not been changed to reflect a new owner of the vehicle, proof of proprietary interest~~
 5 ~~must be submitted prior to release of the information;~~

6 ~~(3) Any judgment creditor of the owner of the vehicle upon the presentation of a fi. fa.;~~

7 ~~(4) Any individual or an authorized agent or representative of such individual involved~~
 8 ~~in a motor vehicle accident either as an operator of a motor vehicle, a passenger in a~~
 9 ~~motor vehicle, or a pedestrian;~~

10 ~~(5)~~(1) Any licensed dealer of new or used motor vehicles; and

11 ~~(6) Any person for the purposes of a manufacturer's recall; and~~

12 ~~(7)~~(2) Any tax collector, tax receiver, or tax commissioner.

13 ~~(d.1)~~(e) In addition to any public inspection of records authorized under subsection (d) of
 14 this Code section:

15 ~~(1) Motor~~ motor vehicle records consisting of vehicle description, title status, title
 16 brands, last recorded mileage, recorded liens, or recorded security interests which the
 17 commissioner or the commissioner's duly authorized county tag agent is required to
 18 maintain under this Code section shall, in such manner and under such conditions as
 19 prescribed by the commissioner, be furnished individually or in bulk to any person upon
 20 payment of a reasonable fee, for any purpose not otherwise prohibited by law, including
 21 without limitation for the purpose of providing information to allow for informed motor
 22 vehicle purchase and safety decisions. Records furnished in accordance with this
 23 ~~paragraph~~ subsection may be subsequently transferred to third parties. Personal
 24 information of any registrant, including name, address, date of birth, or driver's license
 25 or social security number, shall not be furnished or transferred by or to any person
 26 pursuant to this ~~paragraph~~; and subsection.

27 ~~(2) The commissioner may in his or her discretion publish or permit to be published~~
 28 ~~statistical reports from records maintained under this Code section, provided that such~~
 29 ~~reports shall not disclose any natural person's name, address, date of birth, or driver's~~
 30 ~~license or social security number.~~

31 ~~(e) The commissioner may, in his or her discretion, authorize the release of title records~~
 32 ~~to any appropriate governmental official, entity, or agency for the purposes of carrying out~~
 33 ~~official governmental functions or legitimate governmental duties.~~

34 (f) Except as otherwise required in the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18
 35 U.S.C. Chapter 123, personal information furnished under paragraphs (1) and (2) of
 36 subsection (d) of this Code section shall be limited to the natural person's name, address,
 37 and driver identification number. The personal information obtained by a business under

1 this Code section shall not be resold or redisclosed for any purposes other than those
2 permitted under the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. Chapter
3 123, without the written consent of the individual. Furnishing of information to a business
4 under this Code section shall be pursuant to a contract entered into by such business and
5 the state which specifies the consideration to be paid by such business to the state for such
6 information and the frequency of updates."

7 **SECTION 3.**

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