

Senate Bill 479

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

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-85.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 special and distinctive license plates for veterans, so as to provide that persons who served
3 in the Global War on Terrorism shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive license
4 plates; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 40-2-85.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special and
8 distinctive license plates for veterans, is amended by striking said Code section and inserting
9 in its place the following:

10 "40-2-85.1.

11 (a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are retired veterans of the armed forces of the United
12 States or persons who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the
13 Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terrorism — Iraq, or the
14 Global War on Terrorism — Afghanistan shall be eligible to receive special and
15 distinctive vehicle license plates for private passenger cars, trucks, or recreational
16 vehicles used for personal transportation. Such license plates shall be issued in
17 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of
18 motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter.

19 (2)(A) Motor vehicle owners who retired from active duty with the armed forces of the
20 United States shall be issued upon application for and upon compliance with the state
21 motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles a retired
22 veteran's license plate. One such retired veteran's license plate shall be issued without
23 the requisite registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee.

24 (B) Each retired member of the armed forces shall be entitled to no more than one such
25 free license plate at a time; provided, however, that upon payment of a manufacturing
26 fee of \$25.00, a member shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each

1 additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be
2 an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the
3 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted
4 to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

5 (b) The commissioner shall design a retired veteran's license plate or a distinctive license
6 plate to commemorate service by the United States armed forces in wars listed in
7 subsection (a) of this Code section. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and
8 regulations as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating
9 to the use and operation of private passenger cars and trucks before issuing these license
10 plates in lieu of the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for such special
11 and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized
12 to 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 or trucks used for personal transportation. Such
17 plates shall contain such words or symbols, in addition to the numbers and letters
18 prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the owners as retired veterans of the armed
19 forces of the United States or persons who served during World War I, World War II, the
20 Korean War, the Vietnam War, ~~or Operation Desert Storm,~~ the Global War on Terrorism
21 — Iraq, or the Global War on Terrorism — Afghanistan and shall additionally, for such
22 plates manufactured after July 1, 2001, identify distinctly the owner as a veteran of one of
23 the following branches of the armed forces: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast
24 Guard.

25 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
26 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased retired veteran of
27 the armed forces of the United States or of a deceased person who served during World
28 War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, ~~or Operation Desert Storm,~~ the
29 Global War on Terrorism — Iraq, or the Global War on Terrorism — Afghanistan shall
30 continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in
31 this Code section for any vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred
32 to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at
33 the time of the qualifying veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person
34 does not remarry.

35 (e) Special license plates issued under this Code section, except as provided in
36 subparagraph (a)(2)(A) of this Code section, shall be renewed annually with a revalidation
37 decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual

1 registration fee which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection
2 of other registration fees and remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. It
3 shall be a requirement that a county name decal shall be affixed and displayed on license
4 plates issued under this Code section."

5 **SECTION 2.**

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