

Senate Bill 539

By: Senator Douglas of the 17th

AS PASSED SENATE

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to prestige and special license plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 provide for special license plates supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Operation
4 Enduring Freedom; to provide for issuance, renewal, fees, licensing agreements, applications,
5 and transfers relative to such license plates; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 prestige and special license plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by adding a
11 new Code Section 40-2-86.18 to read as follows:

12 "40-2-86.18.

13 (a) There shall be issued special and distinctive vehicle license plates supporting the
14 Global War on Terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom, subject to the conditions set
15 forth in this Code section.

16 (b) The commissioner shall, in cooperation with the supporters of this license plate, design
17 special distinctive license plates supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Operation
18 Enduring Freedom. The license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor
19 vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby
20 the total number of characters does not exceed six. No two recipients shall receive
21 identically numbered plates. The graphic on the special license plate shall be placed to the
22 left of the alphanumeric characters and shall be no larger than three inches by three inches.
23 Such design shall not provide space in which to indicate the name of the county of
24 issuance. In that space will be the inscription 'Global War on Terrorism.' Any person may
25 request the assignment of the first of 100 in a series of license plates upon payment of an
26 additional initial registration fee of \$25.00 for each license plate requested.

1 (c) Beginning January 1, 2007, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle,
2 except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with
3 the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the
4 payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle
5 registration fee shall be issued a license plate supporting the Global War on Terrorism and
6 Operation Enduring Freedom, and decals shall be issued for such license plates in the same
7 manner as provided for general issue license plates.

8 (d) An applicant may request a license plate supporting the Global War on Terrorism and
9 Operation Enduring Freedom at any time during the applicant's registration period. If such
10 a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, such license plate shall be issued
11 with appropriate decals attached.

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

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

30 (g) License plates supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Operation Enduring
31 Freedom shall be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle in accordance with the
32 provisions of Code Section 40-2-80.

33 (h) License plates supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Operation Enduring
34 Freedom shall be issued within 30 days of application once the requirements of this Code
35 section have been met."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2006.

3 **SECTION 3.**

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