

Senate Bill 538

By: Senator Douglas of the 17th

AS PASSED

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 Iraqi freedom;
4 to provide for issuance, renewal, fees, licensing agreements, applications, and transfers
5 relative to such license plates; to provide that spouses of members of active reserve
6 components of the United States military shall be entitled to keep the free license plate when
7 the member is killed in a combat arena; to provide that spouses of National Guard members
8 shall be entitled to keep the free license plate when the member is killed in a combat arena;
9 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

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

15 "40-2-86.18.

16 (a) There shall be issued special and distinctive vehicle license plates supporting the
17 Global War on Terrorism and Iraqi freedom, subject to the conditions set forth in this Code
18 section.

19 (b) The commissioner shall, in cooperation with the supporters of this license plate, design
20 special distinctive license plates supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Iraqi
21 freedom. The license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor vehicle license
22 plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby the total number
23 of characters does not exceed six. No two recipients shall receive identically numbered
24 plates. The graphic on the special license plate shall be placed to the left of the
25 alphanumeric characters and shall be no larger than three inches by three inches. Such
26 design shall not provide space in which to indicate the name of the county of issuance. In

1 that space will be the inscription 'Global War on Terrorism.' Any person may request the
2 assignment of the first of 100 in a series of license plates upon payment of an additional
3 initial registration fee of \$25.00 for each license plate requested.

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

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

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

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

33 (g) License plates supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Iraqi freedom shall be
34 transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Code
35 Section 40-2-80.

1 (h) License plates supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Iraqi freedom shall be
2 issued within 30 days of application once the requirements of this Code section have been
3 met."

4 **SECTION 2.**

5 Said article is further amended by adding a new subsection (d) to Code Section 40-2-65,
6 relating to distinctive license plates for members of the active reserve of the United States
7 military, to read as follows:

8 "(d) The spouse of a member of the active reserve of the United States military who is
9 killed while serving in a combat arena shall continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive
10 license plate as provided in this Code section so long as such spouse does not remarry."

11 **SECTION 3.**

12 Said article is further amended by adding a new subsection (e) to Code Section 40-2-66,
13 relating to distinctive license plates for members of the National Guard, to read as follows:

14 "(e) The spouse of a member of the National Guard who is killed while serving in a combat
15 arena shall continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive license plate as provided in this
16 Code section so long as such spouse does not remarry."

17 **SECTION 4.**

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

19 **SECTION 5.**

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