

The Senate Finance Committee offered the following substitute to HB 1012:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-86.18 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 special license plates for family members of service members killed in action, so as to  
3 expand the definition of family member; to provide for the purchase of additional license  
4 plates by a family member; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date;  
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 40-2-86.18 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special  
9 license plates for family members of service members killed in action, is amended by  
10 revising subsections (a), (d), (f), and (g) as follows:

11 "~~(a) There shall be issued beginning July 1, 2007, special~~ Special license plates honoring  
12 the family members of service members who have been killed in action while serving in  
13 the armed forces of the United States shall be issued in this state. The license plate shall  
14 be officially designated as the Gold Star license plate."

15 "~~(d) On and after July 1, 2007, any~~ Any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia,  
16 other than one registering under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with  
17 state laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles shall be issued such a  
18 special license plate upon application therefor. Special license plates issued under this  
19 Code section shall be renewed annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code  
20 Section 40-2-31. ~~One Gold Star license plate per eligible family member is free of charge,~~  
21 after Upon payment of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor  
22 vehicle an eligible family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. In order to  
23 qualify as a an eligible family member, the person must be directly related to the fallen  
24 service member as a spouse ~~or legal mother or father,~~ mother, father, sibling, child, or  
25 step-parent. One free license plate shall be allowed for the spouse, mother, and father, and  
26 they may purchase additional license plates for each motor vehicle they register in this  
27 state. Siblings, children, and step-parents may purchase Gold Star license plates for motor

28 vehicles registered in this state. The cost of a Gold Star license plate shall be established  
 29 by the department, but shall not exceed the cost of other specialty license plates. If a Gold  
 30 Star license plate is lost, damaged, or stolen, the eligible family member must pay the  
 31 reasonable cost, to be established by the department, but not to exceed the cost of other  
 32 specialty license plates, to replace the Gold Star license plate."

33 "(f) ~~The~~ A free Gold Star license plate shall be issued only to ~~family members~~ the spouse,  
 34 mother, and father of service members who resided in Georgia at the time of the death of  
 35 the service member. However, an eligible family member who was not a resident of  
 36 Georgia at the time of the death of the service member may purchase a Gold Star license  
 37 plate, at a cost to be established by the department, not to exceed the cost of other specialty  
 38 license plates.

39 (g) Renewal decals shall be issued at no cost to ~~the eligible family member~~ any person that  
 40 received a free license plate under the provisions of this Code section upon the payment  
 41 of ad valorem taxes and other registration fees, provided that the renewal is applied for on  
 42 or within 30 days prior to the renewal date of the eligible ~~family member~~ person. If the  
 43 eligible ~~family member~~ person fails to renew within such time, he or she shall pay a  
 44 standard renewal fee and be subject to the standard penalties for late payment of ad  
 45 valorem taxes due on the motor vehicle."

46 **SECTION 2.**

47 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2010.

48 **SECTION 3.**

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