

SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 1012

AS PASSED SENATE

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:

SECTION 1.

7
 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,
 25 step-parent, grandparents or step-grandparents. One free license plate shall be allowed for
 26 the spouse, mother, and father, and they may purchase additional license plates for each
 27 motor vehicle they register in this state. Siblings, children, step-parents, grandparents or

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

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

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

47 **SECTION 2.**

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

49 **SECTION 3.**

50 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.