

House Bill 1012

By: Representative Horne of the 71st

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, 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 and step-parents may purchase Gold Star license plates for motor vehicles
 28 registered in this state. The cost of a Gold Star license plate shall be established by the
 29 department, but shall not exceed the cost of other specialty license plates. If a Gold Star
 30 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.