

House Bill 128

By: Representatives Taylor of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Yates of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Rice of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, and Holcomb of the 82<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-85.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 special license plates for veterans, so as to provide for a special license plate for veterans of  
3 Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; to provide for related matters;  
4 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 Code Section 40-2-85.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license  
8 plates for veterans, is revised as follows:

9 "40-2-85.1.

10 (a)(1) Motor vehicle owners who are retired veterans of the armed forces of the United  
11 States or persons who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the  
12 Vietnam War, ~~or~~ Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation  
13 Iraqi Freedom shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for  
14 private passenger cars, trucks, or recreational vehicles used for personal transportation.  
15 Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws  
16 relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this  
17 chapter.

18 (2)(A) Motor vehicle owners who retired from active duty with the armed forces of the  
19 United States shall be issued upon application for and upon compliance with the state  
20 motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles a retired  
21 veteran's license plate. One such retired veteran's license plate shall be issued without  
22 the requisite registration fee, manufacturing fee, or annual registration fee.

23 (B) Each retired member of the armed forces shall be entitled to no more than one such  
24 free license plate at a time; provided, however, that upon payment of a manufacturing  
25 fee of \$25.00, a member shall be entitled to one additional such license plate. For each  
26 additional license plate for which a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be

27 an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the  
28 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted  
29 to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34.

30 (b) The commissioner shall design a retired veteran's license plate or a distinctive license  
31 plate to commemorate service by the United States armed forces in wars listed in  
32 subsection (a) of this Code section. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and  
33 regulations as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating  
34 to the use and operation of private passenger cars and trucks before issuing these license  
35 plates in lieu of the regular Georgia license plates. The manufacturing fee for such special  
36 and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized  
37 to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where  
38 such vehicles have been transferred or sold. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this  
39 Code section, such plates shall be nontransferable.

40 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of  
41 this chapter for private passenger cars or trucks used for personal transportation. Such  
42 plates shall contain such words or symbols, in addition to the numbers and letters  
43 prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the owners as retired veterans of the armed  
44 forces of the United States or persons who served during World War I, World War II, the  
45 Korean War, the Vietnam War, ~~or~~ Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom,  
46 or Operation Iraqi Freedom and shall additionally, for such plates manufactured after July  
47 1, 2001, identify distinctly the owner as a veteran of one of the following branches of the  
48 armed forces: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard.

49 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between  
50 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased retired veteran  
51 of the armed forces of the United States or of a deceased person who served during World  
52 War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, ~~or~~ Operation Desert Storm,  
53 Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom shall continue to be eligible to  
54 be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in this Code section for any  
55 vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred to the surviving spouse  
56 or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at the time of the qualifying  
57 veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person does not remarry.

58 (e) Special license plates issued under this Code section, except as provided in  
59 subparagraph (a)(2)(A) of this Code section, shall be renewed annually with a revalidation  
60 decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31 without payment of an additional \$25.00 annual  
61 registration fee. It shall be a requirement that a county name decal shall be affixed and  
62 displayed on license plates issued under this Code section."

63

**SECTION 2.**

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