

House Bill 866

By: Representatives Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 122<sup>nd</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Harden of the 147<sup>th</sup>, and others

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 license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to  
3 provide for special license plates for veterans and service members awarded certain  
4 distinguished service medals of honor; to provide for procedures; to provide for related  
5 matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by  
10 revising Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license plates for  
11 veterans, as follows:

12 "40-2-85.1.

13 (a)(1) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who are retired veterans of the armed forces of  
14 the United States, persons who have been awarded the Bronze Star, Silver Star, or  
15 Distinguished Service Cross as members of the armed forces of the United States, or  
16 persons who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam  
17 War, or Operation Desert Storm shall be eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle  
18 license plates for private passenger cars, trucks, or recreational vehicles used for personal  
19 transportation. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor  
20 vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in  
21 Article 2 of this chapter.

22 (2)(A) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who retired from active duty with the armed  
23 forces of the United States or who have been awarded a medal of honor or served in the  
24 armed forces in a war as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be issued  
25 upon application for and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to  
26 registration and licensing of motor vehicles a retired veteran's license plate, medal of

27 honor license plate, or commemorative service license plate. One such ~~retired~~ veteran's  
 28 license plate shall be issued without the requisite registration fee, manufacturing fee,  
 29 or annual registration fee.

30 (B) Each ~~retired~~ member of the armed forces listed in subsection (a) of this Code  
 31 section shall be entitled to no more than one such free license plate at a time; provided,  
 32 however, that upon payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall be  
 33 entitled to one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for which  
 34 a \$25.00 manufacturing fee is required, there shall be an additional annual registration  
 35 fee of \$25.00 which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of  
 36 collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in  
 37 Code Section 40-2-34.

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

49 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of  
 50 this chapter for private passenger cars, ~~and~~ trucks, and trailers used for personal  
 51 transportation. Such plates shall contain such words or symbols, in addition to the numbers  
 52 and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the owners as retired veterans  
 53 of the armed forces of the United States, persons who have been awarded the Bronze Star,  
 54 Silver Star, or Distinguished Service Cross as members of the armed forces of the United  
 55 States, or persons who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the  
 56 Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm and shall additionally, for such plates  
 57 manufactured after July 1, 2001, identify distinctly the owner as a veteran of one of the  
 58 following branches of the armed forces: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard.

59 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between  
 60 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. The spouse of a deceased ~~retired~~ veteran  
 61 of the armed forces of the United States or of a deceased person who served during World  
 62 War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or Operation Desert Storm shall  
 63 continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive personalized license plate as provided in

64 this Code section for any vehicle owned by such veteran ownership of which is transferred  
65 to the surviving spouse or for any other vehicle owned by such surviving spouse either at  
66 the time of the qualifying veteran's death or acquired thereafter, so long as such person  
67 does not remarry.

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

73 **SECTION 2.**

74 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2013.

75 **SECTION 3.**

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