

Senate Bill 293

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Rogers of the 21st, Tippins of the 37th, Hill of the 4th and Hill of the 32nd

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to require that the nation's motto, "In God  
3 We Trust," be available on a decal for use on license plates; to provide for related matters;  
4 to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and  
9 licensing of motor vehicles, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-9,  
10 relating to the display of the "In God We Trust" decal, as follows:

11 "(b) The department shall make available to all license plates recipients a decal with the  
12 same dimensions as the county name decal that contains the words, 'In God We Trust.' The  
13 department shall provide such decal free of charge to any person requesting ~~such decal no~~  
14 ~~more than the cost to the department for the manufacture and distribution of such decal~~ it.  
15 Such decal may be displayed in the space reserved for the county name decal in lieu of the  
16 county name decal."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (e) and (f) of Code Section 40-2-31,  
19 relating to the design of license plates and revalidation and county decals, and by adding a  
20 new subsection to read as follows:

21 "(e) The commissioner shall furnish without cost to each tag agent reflective adhesive  
22 decals in sufficient number, upon which there shall be printed the name of the agent's  
23 county. Such a decal shall be issued with each metal license plate and shall be affixed in  
24 the space provided on the license plate without obscuring any number or other information  
25 required to be present on the plate. A tag agent shall offer, upon such issuance of a new

26 permanent license plate, the option of obtaining a county decal or a decal providing for the  
 27 nation's motto, 'In God We Trust.'

28 (f) A county tag agent shall issue a county name decal, upon request, for the agent's county  
 29 only if:

30 (1) The applicant is a resident of or a business located in the county named on the decal;

31 (2) The applicant is registering a new vehicle in such county, is renewing a current  
 32 vehicle registration, or is transferring registration of a vehicle to the county named on the  
 33 decal; and

34 (3) The application for registration of the vehicle is being made in the county named on  
 35 the decal.

36 (g) The commissioner shall furnish without cost to each tag agent reflective adhesive  
 37 decals in sufficient number, upon which there shall be printed the nation's motto, 'In God  
 38 We Trust.' A tag agent shall offer, upon such issuance of a new permanent license plate,  
 39 the option of obtaining a county decal or a decal providing for the nation's motto, 'In God  
 40 We Trust.' Such a decal shall be issued, upon request and free of charge, by a county tag  
 41 agent with each new permanent license plate."

42 **SECTION 3.**

43 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 40-2-60.1,  
 44 relating to the administrative procedure for issuing special license plates, as follows:

45 "(d) The agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation sponsoring a special license plate, in  
 46 cooperation with the commissioner, shall design a special distinctive license plate  
 47 appropriate to promote the program benefitted by the issuance of the special license plate.  
 48 Special license plates for groups of individuals and vehicles shall be readily recognizable  
 49 by the insertion of an appropriate logo or graphic identifying the special nature of the  
 50 license plate. All special license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor  
 51 vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby  
 52 the total number of characters does not exceed an amount to be determined by the  
 53 commissioner. No two recipients shall receive identically numbered plates. Spaces for  
 54 county name labels or other authorized labels, including the 'In God We Trust' label, are  
 55 required for all special license plates ~~authorized under this Code section~~ unless expressly  
 56 ~~eliminated by the request of the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation sponsoring a special~~  
 57 ~~license plate at the time the license plate is designed~~ under this chapter."

58 **SECTION 4.**

59 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2012, and shall apply to license plates issued on  
 60 or after such date.

61

**SECTION 5.**

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