

House Bill 48

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97<sup>th</sup> and Rice of the 95<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-85.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 special license plates honoring family members of service members killed in action, so as to  
3 extend eligibility to apply for such license plates to include a surviving spouse of a sibling  
4 of the service member; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 40-2-85.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license  
9 plates honoring family members of service members killed in action, is amended by revising  
10 subsections (d) and (f) as follows:

11 "(d) Any motor vehicle owner who is a resident of Georgia, other than one registering  
12 under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with state laws relating to  
13 registration and licensing of motor vehicles shall be issued such a special license plate upon  
14 application therefor. Special license plates issued under this Code section shall be renewed  
15 annually with a revalidation decal as provided in Code Section 40-2-31. Upon payment  
16 of all ad valorem taxes and other fees due at registration of a motor vehicle an eligible  
17 family member may apply for a Gold Star license plate. In order to qualify as an eligible  
18 family member for purposes of this Code section, the person must be ~~directly~~ related to the  
19 fallen service member as a spouse, mother, father, sibling, child, ~~or step-parent, or~~  
20 surviving spouse of such service member's sibling. One free license plate shall be allowed  
21 for the spouse, mother, and father, and they may purchase additional license plates for each  
22 motor vehicle they register in this state. Siblings, children, ~~or step-parents, or surviving~~  
23 spouses of siblings of service members may purchase Gold Star license plates for motor  
24 vehicles registered in this state. The cost of a Gold Star license plate shall be established  
25 by the department, but shall not exceed the cost of other specialty license plates. If a Gold  
26 Star license plate is lost, damaged, or stolen, the eligible family member must pay the

27 reasonable cost, to be established by the department, but not to exceed the cost of other  
28 specialty license plates, to replace the Gold Star license plate."

29 "(f) A free Gold Star license plate shall be issued only to the spouse, mother, and father of  
30 service members who resided in Georgia at the time of the death of the service member.  
31 However, an eligible family member, except for nonresident siblings or surviving spouses  
32 of such nonresident siblings, who was not a resident of Georgia at the time of the death of  
33 the service member may purchase a Gold Star license plate, at a cost to be established by  
34 the department, not to exceed the cost of other specialty license plates."

35 **SECTION 2.**

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