

## House Bill 736

By: Representatives Atwood of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 167<sup>th</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-2-86 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 special license plates promoting certain beneficial projects and supporting certain worthy  
3 agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations, so as to provide for a special license plate  
4 promoting marine habitat conservation; to provide for related matters; to require a two-thirds'  
5 majority vote for passage in accordance with constitutional requirements; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 40-2-86 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license  
10 plates promoting certain beneficial projects and supporting certain worthy agencies, funds,  
11 or nonprofit corporations, is amended by revising subsection (n) as follows:

12 "(n)(1) The General Assembly recognizes that Code Section 12-3-600 mandates that the  
13 best interests of the state are served by providing for the conservation of nongame species  
14 of wildlife and has determined that the following special license plates supporting the  
15 agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations listed in this subsection shall be issued for the  
16 purposes indicated. The special license plates listed in this subsection shall be subject to  
17 a special license plate fee and a special license plate renewal fee. The revenue  
18 disbursement for the special license plates listed in this subsection shall be as follows:

19 (A) Special license plate fee – \$25.00 of which \$5.00 is to be deposited into the general  
20 fund, \$1.00 is to be paid to the local county tag agent, and \$19.00 is to be dedicated to  
21 the sponsoring agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation; and

22 (B) Special license plate renewal fee – \$25.00 of which \$5.00 is to be deposited into  
23 the general fund and \$20.00 is to be dedicated to the sponsoring agency, fund, or  
24 nonprofit corporation.

25 (2) A special Special license plates plate promoting the Nongame-Endangered Wildlife  
26 Program of the Department of Natural Resources. The funds raised by the sale of ~~these~~

27 this special license ~~plates~~ plate shall be disbursed to the Nongame Wildlife Conservation  
 28 and Wildlife Habitat Acquisition Fund of the Department of Natural Resources for the  
 29 purposes enumerated in subsection (b) of Code Section 12-3-602. Such license ~~plates~~  
 30 plate shall not include a space for a county name decal but shall instead bear the legend  
 31 'Give Wildlife a Chance' in lieu of the name of the county of issuance.

32 (3) A special license plate promoting conservation and enhancement of trout populations.  
 33 The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Wildlife  
 34 Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to supplement trout  
 35 restoration and management programs.

36 (4) A special license plate supporting the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Initiative. The  
 37 funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Wildlife  
 38 Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to conduct programs  
 39 designed to enhance the bobwhite quail population in this state. Such programs may  
 40 include the creation of habitat demonstration areas on state managed wildlife lands,  
 41 education programs, technical assistance to private landowners in the creation and  
 42 maintenance of bobwhite quail habitats on their lands, and projects to encourage public  
 43 support for the license plate and the activities it funds. The Department of Natural  
 44 Resources may enter into such contractual agreements as may be appropriate to further  
 45 the objectives of the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Initiative, including entering into  
 46 contractual agreements whereby private landowners, public agencies, or corporate entities  
 47 create, preserve, or enhance habitat for bobwhite quail in return for the payment of  
 48 incentives. Such license plate shall not include a space for a county decal but shall  
 49 instead bear the legend 'Support Wildlife' in lieu of the name of the county of issuance.

50 (5)(A) A special license plate promoting marine habitat conservation, restoration, and  
 51 enhancement. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be  
 52 disbursed to the Coastal Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources  
 53 to supplement marine habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement projects  
 54 undertaken to increase the abundance of marine fish and invertebrate species.

55 (B) The Marine Fisheries Advisory Council of the Department of Natural Resources  
 56 shall provide recommendations to the Coastal Resources Division regarding  
 57 expenditure of funds raised by the sale of such license plate."

## 58 **SECTION 2.**

59 In accordance with the requirements of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(n) of the  
 60 Constitution of the State of Georgia, this Act shall not become law unless it receives the  
 61 requisite two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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**SECTION 3.**

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