

Senate Bill 336

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Dugan of the 30th, Thompson of the 14th, Miller of the 49th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

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 expand eligibility for certain members of the military to receive special license plates; to add
4 a military honor to the military service award eligible for special and distinctive license
5 plates for veterans; to provide for a special and distinctive license plate for United States
6 Army Rangers; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
12 revising Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special and distinctive license plates for certain
13 veterans, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

14 "(1) 'Military medal award' means the following medals, decorations, or other recognition
15 of honor for military service awarded by a branch of the United States military:

- 16 (A) Medal of Honor;
- 17 (B) Bronze Star Medal;
- 18 (C) Silver Star Medal;
- 19 (D) Distinguished Service Cross;
- 20 (E) Navy Cross;
- 21 (F) Air Force Cross;
- 22 (G) Defense Distinguished Service Medal;
- 23 (H) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal;
- 24 (I) Distinguished Service Medal;
- 25 (J) Navy Distinguished Service Medal;
- 26 (K) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal;
- 27 (L) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal;

- 28 (M) Defense Superior Service Medal;
 29 (N) Legion of Merit;
 30 (O) Distinguished Flying Cross;
 31 (P) Purple Heart;
 32 (Q) Air Medal; and
 33 (R) Soldier's Medal; and
 34 (S) Meritorious Service Medal."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

37 "40-2-85.4.

38 (a) Motor vehicle and trailer owners who are designated to United States Army Ranger
 39 units, past or present, or are graduates of the United States Army Ranger School shall be
 40 eligible to receive special and distinctive vehicle license plates for private passenger cars,
 41 trucks, motorcycles, or recreational vehicles used for personal transportation. Such license
 42 plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to
 43 registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter.

44 (b) A person who qualifies for the special and distinctive license plate pursuant to
 45 subsection (a) of this Code section shall make application therefor with the commissioner
 46 and include the requisite fee. The commissioner shall design a distinctive license plate as
 47 provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and issue the distinctive license plates to
 48 qualifying applicants. There shall be no minimum required number of applicants for such
 49 distinctive license plate. The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations
 50 as may be necessary to enforce compliance with all state license laws relating to the use
 51 and operation of private passenger cars and trucks before issuing these license plates in lieu
 52 of the regular Georgia license plates. The additional manufacturing fee for such special
 53 and distinctive license plates shall be \$25.00. The commissioner is specifically authorized
 54 to promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to ensure compliance in instances where
 55 such vehicles have been transferred or sold.

56 (c) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
 57 this chapter for private passenger cars or trucks used for personal transportation, except that
 58 the commissioner shall include a special design to identify the owner as a United States
 59 Army Ranger.

60 (d) The license plate issued pursuant to this Code section shall be transferred between
 61 vehicles as provided in Code Section 40-2-80."

62 **SECTION 3.**

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