

## AN ACT

To amend Code Section 40-2-86.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license plates promoting or supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and qualified motor vehicles or drivers with proceeds deposited into the general fund, so as to provide for standards for proof of eligibility for special license plates for certified, volunteer, and retired firefighters; to provide for the issuance of such special license plates; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### **SECTION 1.**

Code Section 40-2-86.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to special license plates promoting or supporting certain worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations and qualified motor vehicles or drivers with proceeds deposited into the general fund, is amended by revising paragraph (9) of subsection (1) as follows:

"(9)(A) A special license plate for owners of a private passenger car or truck used for transportation purposes unrelated to their role as a firefighter, who are firefighters certified pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 25 and who are members of fire departments certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 and motor vehicle owners who are firefighters of legally organized volunteer fire departments which have been certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25. Such license plate shall be inscribed with such letters, numbers, words, symbols, or a combination thereof as determined by the commissioner to identify the owner as a firefighter. The chiefs of the various fire departments shall furnish to the commissioner a list of the certified firefighters and volunteer firefighters of their fire departments who reside in Georgia,

which list shall be updated as necessary. Such list shall be made available to county tag agents and shall be the means by which eligibility of an applicant shall be determined; provided, however, that an applicant not appearing on the list may prove qualification by presenting proof of retirement or current certification from his or her chief. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be deposited in the general fund.

(B) Should a certified firefighter or volunteer firefighter who has been issued a special and distinctive license plate be separated from such firefighter's department for any reason other than retirement from employment, the separated firefighter shall, within 14 days of such separation, return such special and distinctive license plate to the issuing county tag agent. Upon receipt of such special and distinctive license plate, a county tag agent shall reissue a regular license plate and the appropriate revalidation decal for the applicable registration period, at no additional charge, to such former firefighter to replace the special and distinctive license plate. Should a firefighter return to service with the same or another fire department, the chief of the fire department employing such firefighter shall secure the regular license plate of such person and return same to the commissioner, along with a certificate to the effect that such person has become a member of the fire department, and the effective date thereof, whereupon the commissioner shall, upon application and upon the payment of a \$35.00 manufacturing fee and all other applicable registration and licensing fees at the time of registration, reissue a special and distinctive license plate to such new member to replace the returned regular license plate.

(C) Motor vehicle owners who were firefighters certified pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 25 or were members of fire departments certified pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 25 and who retired from employment as such shall continue to be eligible for the firefighter license plates issued under this paragraph the same as if they continued to be certified and employed as firefighters. Whenever such a certified firefighter who has been issued a special and distinctive license plate is retired from employment with such

firefighter's department, the chief of such fire department shall forward to the commissioner a certificate to the effect that such person has been retired. The name of such retired firefighter shall be added to the list described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and made available to county tag agents.

(D) The spouse of a deceased firefighter shall continue to be eligible to be issued a distinctive special firefighter's license plate as provided in this paragraph so long as such person does not remarry."

## **SECTION 2.**

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