

House Bill 299

By: Representatives Thomas of the 21st, Bonner of the 73rd, Clark of the 100th, Ballard of the 147th, Tarvin of the 2nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-9-2.1, Title 16, Title 19, Title 20, and Chapter 2 of Title 38,
2 Chapter 2 of Title 40, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to appointment,
3 compensation, authority, qualifications, training, and other limitations of associate probate
4 court judges, crimes and offenses, domestic relations, education, military affairs, and
5 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, respectively, so as to add appropriate references
6 to the United States Space Force; to make conforming changes; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 15-9-2.1, relating to appointment, compensation, authority, qualifications,
11 training, and other limitations of associate probate court judges, is amended by revising
12 paragraph (1) of subsection (e) as follows:

13 "(1) It shall be unlawful for any associate judge of the probate court to engage directly
14 or indirectly in the practice of law in his or her own name or in the name of another as a
15 partner in any manner in any case, proceeding, or matter of any kind in his or her own
16 court or in any other court in any case, proceeding, or any other matters of which his or

her own court has pending jurisdiction or has jurisdiction. It shall be unlawful for any associate judge of the probate court to give advice or counsel to any individual on any matter of any kind whatsoever that has arisen directly or indirectly in his or her own court. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit in any way the ability of an associate judge of the probate court to serve as or offer advice in his or her role as a judge advocate or in any other military role in an active duty or reserve component of the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Air Force, United States Space Force, United States National Guard, Georgia National Guard, Georgia Air National Guard, Georgia Naval Militia, the Georgia State Defense Force, or in the National Guard or Air National Guard of any state or territory of the United States."

SECTION 2.

Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to crimes and offenses, is amended in Code Section 16-9-63, relating to false representation as veteran, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) 'Armed forces of the United States' means the army, navy, air force, space force, marine corps, or coast guard and the reserve components thereof and the uniformed components of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."

SECTION 3.

Said title is further amended in Code Section 16-11-124, relating to exemptions from application of part, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as follows:

40 “(2) A member of the National Guard or of the armed forces of the United States to wit:
41 the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, or coast guard who, while serving
42 therein, possesses such firearm in the line of duty;”

43 SECTION 4.

44 Said title is further amended in Code Section 16-11-129, relating to weapons carry license,
45 gun safety information, temporary renewal permit, mandamus, and verification of license,
46 by revising subparagraph (a)(2)(A) as follows:

47 "(A) As used in this paragraph, the term 'service member' means an active duty
48 member of the regular or reserve component of the United States Army, United States
49 Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Air Force,
50 United States Space Force, United States National Guard, Georgia Army National
51 Guard, or Georgia Air National Guard."

52 SECTION 5.

53 Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to domestic relations, is
54 amended in Code Section 19-7-5, relating to reporting of child abuse, when mandated or
55 authorized, content of report, to whom made, immunity from liability, report based upon
56 privileged communication, penalty for failure to report, and spiritual treatment for illnesses,
57 by revising subparagraph (e)(1)(B) as follows:

58 "(B) 'Armed forces of the United States' or 'military' means the United States Army,
59 United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United
60 States Air Force, United States Space Force, United States National Guard, Georgia
61 Army National Guard, or Georgia Air National Guard, or a reserve component thereof."

SECTION 6.

Said title is further amended in Code Section 19-8-26, relating to forms, by revising subparagraph (h)(2)(A) as follows:

"(A) The branch of his service is (Army) (Navy) (Marine) (Air Force) (Space Force) (Coast Guard) [circle one]."

SECTION 7.

Said title is further amended in Code Section 19-8-26, relating to forms, by revising subparagraph (n)(7)(A) as follows:

"(A) The branch of my service is (Army)(Navy)(Marine)(Airforce)(Space Force)(Coast Guard)[circle one]."

SECTION 8.

Said title is further amended in Code Section 19-9-6, relating to definitions relative to child custody proceedings, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(1) 'Armed forces' means the national guard and the reserve components of the armed forces, the United States army, navy, marine corps, space force, coast guard, and air force."

SECTION 9.

Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in Code Section 20-4-130, relating to definitions relative to the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program, by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(4) 'Military installation' means a facility owned and operated by United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Space Force, or Coast Guard that shelters military equipment and personnel and facilitates training and operations for such organizations."

SECTION 10.

Chapter 2 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to military affairs, is amended in Code Section 38-2-2, relating to definitions relative to the Defense Community Economic Development Grant Program, by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(1) 'Active military service of the United States' and 'in the armed forces of the United States' mean full-time duty in the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, or coast guard of the United States."

SECTION 11.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 38-2-217, relating to resignations, acts constituting resignation, types of discharge after resignation, and resignation of officers who are accountable for military funds or property, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

"(b) Enlistment in the regular army, air force, navy, marine corps, space force, or coast guard of the United States shall be deemed a resignation by the person so enlisting of all commissions in the militia held by him or her."

SECTION 12.

Chapter 2 of Title 40, relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, is amended in Code Section 40-2-65, relating to special license plates for members of active reserve components of the United States, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(1) Motor vehicle owners who are assigned or attached members of troop program units of any branch of the active reserve components of the United States inside or outside the State of Georgia shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle license plates for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Motor vehicle owners who are members of any National Guard unit in a state adjoining the State of Georgia and for whom there is no National Guard unit in the county of their residence

shall be eligible to receive free motor vehicle plates for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation to identify such vehicle owner as a reservist. Such license plates shall be issued in compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed in Article 2 of this chapter. No person shall be entitled to more than one free motor vehicle license plate for any calendar year; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee provided for in Code Section 40-2-151 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a reservist shall be entitled to receive one additional such license plate. For each additional license plate for which an initial \$25.00 fee was required, there shall be an additional annual registration fee of \$25.00, which fee shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. Additional words or symbols in addition to numbers and letters prescribed by law shall be inscribed upon such license plates so as to identify distinctively the owner as a member of one of the following branches of the United States military reserve: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard. The commanding officer of each active reserve component program unit or the adjutant general of the National Guard unit of each neighboring state shall, upon request of any reserve member or National Guard member of that unit, respectively, furnish to that member approved documentation supporting the member's current membership in the respective reserve or National Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented annually to the tax commissioner of the county in which the reserve member or National Guard member applies for the special license plate under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each succeeding year."

SECTION 13.

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-85.1, relating to special license plates for certain veterans, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

136 "(d) The special and distinctive vehicle license plates shall be as prescribed in Article 2 of
137 this chapter for private passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, recreational vehicles, and
138 trailers used for personal transportation. Such plates shall contain words or symbols, in
139 addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, so as to identify distinctively the
140 owners who are veterans, who are recipients of a military medal award, or who served
141 during active military combat and shall additionally identify distinctively the owner as a
142 current or former member of one of the following branches of the armed forces of the
143 United States: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard."

144 SECTION 14.

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