

**WITHDRAWN**

The House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to SB 35:

**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 provide for the design of special license plates issued to retired members of the active reserve  
4 components and the Georgia National Guard; to provide for a special license plate for  
5 amateur radio station license holders; to provide for qualifications; to provide for design of  
6 such plate; to provide for conforming changes; to amend Code Section 48-5-478 of the  
7 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to constitutional exemption from motor vehicle  
8 ad valorem taxation for disabled veterans, so as to remove a requirement that a motor vehicle  
9 display a certain license plate in order to qualify for an exemption from ad valorem taxation;  
10 to limit applicability of such exemption to a single vehicle; to provide for clarification that  
11 such exemption applies to alternative title ad valorem taxes; to authorize the adoption of rules  
12 and regulations; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal  
13 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and 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 (2) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired from any branch of the active reserve components whose active reservists are eligible to obtain free motor vehicle license plates under paragraph (1) of this subsection, upon application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Each such retired member shall be entitled to no more than one such free 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 retired member 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. The license plates issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, be identical to those issued pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection to members of the branch of the active reserve component from which that person retired; provided, however, that 'Retired' shall be included in lieu of the name of the county of issuance. The commanding officer of each active reserve component program unit shall, upon request of any retired reserve member from that unit, furnish to that retired member approved documentation supporting the retired member's current retired membership status from that reserve unit. This documentation shall be presented to the tax

commissioner of the county in which the retired reserve member applies for the special license plate under this Code section."

## SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-66, relating to special license plates for members of Georgia National Guard, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(2) Motor vehicle owners who are retired members of the Georgia National Guard, upon application for license plates and upon compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles as prescribed under Article 2 of this chapter, shall be issued, free of charge, a license plate as prescribed in that article for private passenger cars, motorcycles, or trucks used for personal transportation. Each retired member of the Georgia National Guard shall be entitled to no more than one such free plate at a time; provided, however, that, upon payment of the regular license fee provided for in Code Section 48-10-2 and a manufacturing fee of \$25.00, a member shall be entitled to 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. The license plates issued pursuant to this paragraph shall, in addition to the numbers and letters prescribed by law, be identical to those issued pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection; provided, however, that 'Retired' shall be included in lieu of the name of the county of issuance. The adjutant general of Georgia shall, upon request of any member retired from that National Guard unit, furnish to that retired member approved documentation supporting the member's retired membership status in that National Guard unit. This documentation shall be presented annually to the tax commissioner of the county in which the retired National Guard member applies for the

67 special license plate under this Code section and upon subsequent reregistration for each  
68 succeeding year."

69 **SECTION 3.**

70 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-75, designated as reserved, as  
71 follows:

72 "40-2-75.

73 (a) Motor vehicle owners who are residents of this state and who hold an unrevoked and  
74 unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications  
75 Commission, when accompanied by proof of such license and upon full compliance with  
76 state motor vehicle laws in relation to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, shall be  
77 issued upon application a special design license plate for a passenger car. Upon such  
78 license plate, which shall be free of charge, shall be inscribed the official amateur radio call  
79 letters of such applicant as assigned by the Federal Communications Commission. Each  
80 licensed amateur radio operator shall be entitled to no more than one such free license plate  
81 at a time. Such plates shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in Code  
82 Section 40-2-80.

83 (b) The commissioner shall design the license plate authorized by this Code section and  
84 may consult with the Georgia Section of the Amateur Radio Relay League and their  
85 licensed amateur radio operators residing in this state for such purposes. The  
86 commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes  
87 of this Code section.

88 (c) No person who receives compensation in any form for his or her services in making  
89 amateur radio communication available to the public or to individuals, firms, corporations,  
90 or organizations pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Part 97 shall be eligible for a license plate issued  
91 pursuant to this Code section. Reserved."

**SECTION 4.**

Said article is further amended in Code Section 40-2-86.1, 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, by revising paragraph (6) of subsection (l) as follows:

~~"(6) Reserved. A special license plate identifying residents of the State of Georgia who hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. The special license plate shall be inscribed with the official amateur radio call letters of such applicant as assigned by the Federal Communications Commission. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be deposited in the general fund."~~

**SECTION 5.**

Code Section 48-5-478 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to constitutional exemption from motor vehicle ad valorem taxation for disabled veterans, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

~~"(a) A motor vehicle owned by or leased to a disabled veteran who is a citizen and resident of this state and on which such disabled veteran actually places the free disabled veteran motor vehicle license plate he or she receives pursuant to Code Section 40-2-69 is hereby~~ exempted from all ad valorem taxes for state, county, municipal, and school purposes, including any alternative title ad valorem tax assessed pursuant to Code Section 48-5C-1. Such exemption shall be applicable to a single motor vehicle owned by or leased to a disabled veteran. As used in this Code section, the term 'disabled veteran' shall have the same meaning as that term is defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-5-48. The department may issue such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement this subsection."

117 **SECTION 6.**

118 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

119 **SECTION 7.**

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