

The House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to HB 583:

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 issuance of two free license plates for veterans who are totally disabled or
4 disabled; to provide for application; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related
5 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 prestige license plates and special plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by
10 revising Code Section 40-2-69, relating to license plates for veterans qualifying as totally
11 disabled, as follows:

12 "40-2-69.

13 (a) ~~Any disabled veteran who is a citizen and resident of this state shall, upon application~~
14 ~~therefor, be issued a free motor vehicle license plate.~~ As used in this Code section, the
15 term '~~disabled veteran~~' shall have the same meaning as that term is defined in 'totally
16 disabled veteran' means an individual who qualifies as a disabled veteran pursuant to
17 paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-5-48.

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18 (b) Any totally disabled veteran shall, upon proper application therefor, be issued a free
 19 motor vehicle license ~~plate~~ plates for up to two motorcycles or passenger cars for personal
 20 use registered pursuant to this chapter in his or her name upon presentation of proof that
 21 he or she qualifies as a totally disabled veteran. A totally disabled veteran ~~who claims that~~
 22 ~~his or her disability is permanent~~ applying for license plates pursuant to this Code section
 23 shall furnish proof of such permanent disability through a letter from the United States
 24 Department of Veterans Affairs.

25 (c)(1) Once a totally disabled veteran has established his or her eligibility to receive free
 26 motor vehicle license plates ~~as a result of being permanently disabled pursuant to this~~
 27 Code section, he or she shall be entitled to receive free license plates or free revalidation
 28 decals in succeeding years ~~on any automobile, private passenger pickup truck,~~
 29 ~~motorcycle, station wagon, or van type vehicle of three-quarter tons or less~~ for up to two
 30 motorcycles or passenger cars for personal use registered pursuant to this chapter that he
 31 or she may own or jointly with his or her spouse or minor child own or acquire in the
 32 future.

33 ~~(2) Once a disabled veteran has established his or her eligibility to receive free motor~~
 34 ~~vehicle license plates but his or her disability has not been determined to be a permanent~~
 35 ~~disability, he or she shall be entitled to receive free plates or free revalidation decals in~~
 36 ~~succeeding years upon furnishing, on an annual basis, proof of his or her status as a~~
 37 ~~disabled veteran through a letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.~~
 38 ~~Such free plates or free revalidation decals shall apply to any automobile, private~~
 39 ~~passenger pickup truck, motorcycle, station wagon, or van type vehicle of three-quarter~~
 40 ~~tons or less that he or she may own or jointly with his or her spouse or minor child own~~
 41 ~~or acquire in the future.~~

42 ~~(3)(2)(A)~~ Up to four ~~Two~~ license plates or revalidation decals each year shall be
 43 furnished for motor vehicles other than motorcycles to totally disabled veterans

44 qualifying under this Code section unless the originals are lost. Such license plates
45 shall be fastened to both the front and the rear of the motor vehicle.

46 (B) Up to two license plates or revalidation decals ~~One license plate or revalidation~~
47 ~~decals~~ each year shall be furnished for motorcycles to totally disabled veterans
48 qualifying under this Code section unless the original is lost. Such license plate shall
49 be fastened to the rear of the vehicle.

50 ~~(4)~~(3) In the event of the death of the person who received the special license plates
51 pursuant to this Code section, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to
52 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, his or her unremarried surviving spouse or
53 minor child may continue to receive the free special license plates authorized by this
54 Code section and revalidation decals until the remarriage of the surviving spouse or death
55 of the surviving spouse or minor child."

56 **SECTION 2.**

57 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-70, relating to license plates
58 for veterans not qualifying as totally disabled, as follows:

59 "40-2-70.

60 (a) Any citizen and resident of ~~the State of Georgia~~ this state who has been discharged
61 from the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable or who is currently serving
62 in the armed forces, who is disabled ~~to any degree specified and enumerated in Code~~
63 ~~Section 40-2-69, and who is the owner of a private passenger motor vehicle, but who~~
64 ~~cannot qualify under~~ but does not qualify as totally disabled pursuant to paragraph (1) of
65 subsection (a) of Code Section 48-5-48 for purposes of qualification for a license plate
66 issued pursuant to Code Section 40-2-69, shall be entitled to a special and distinctive
67 ~~automobile license plate~~ license plates for up to two motorcycles or passenger cars for
68 personal use registered pursuant to this chapter in his or her name. Such license ~~plate~~
69 plates shall be transferred to another vehicle acquired by such veteran or jointly by such

70 veteran and his or her spouse as provided in Code Section 40-2-80. Such veteran shall be
71 entitled to ~~such plate~~ license plates issued pursuant to this Code section regardless of
72 whether he or she is suffering from a service connected or nonservice connected disability.

73 (b) Upon proper application and ~~Such veteran must apply for such license plate and, upon~~
74 compliance with the state motor vehicle laws for licensing of motor vehicles and without
75 payment of the regular license fee for plates as prescribed under Article 7 of this chapter,
76 ~~such veteran~~ a disabled veteran who does not qualify for license plates pursuant to Code
77 Section 40-2-69 shall be issued similar license plates as prescribed in Code Section 40-2-71
78 for private passenger cars up to two motorcycles or passenger cars for personal use. There
79 ~~shall be no charge for the additional plate issued such veteran under this Code section.~~
80 There shall be no charge for revalidation decals for ~~such plates~~ license plates issued
81 pursuant to this Code section.

82 (c) For purposes of applying for license plates issued pursuant to this Code section, If a
83 veteran who has not been certified as disabled by the United States Department of Veterans
84 Affairs, ~~such veteran~~ may submit to the Department of Veterans Service such veteran's
85 discharge papers and a certified statement from a physician, licensed under Chapter 34 of
86 Title 43, certifying that, in the opinion of such physician, such veteran is disabled ~~to a~~
87 ~~degree enumerated in Code Section 40-2-69~~. If the certificate from the physician indicates
88 the qualifying disabilities ~~which~~ meet the standards of the United States Department of
89 Veterans Affairs, the commissioner of veterans service shall submit a letter to the state
90 revenue commissioner indicating that the veteran meets the requirements of this Code
91 section and qualifies for a special license ~~plate~~ plates as provided in this Code section.

92 (d) Once a disabled veteran has established his or her eligibility to receive free motor
93 vehicle license plates pursuant to this Code section but his or her disability has not been
94 determined to be a permanent disability, he or she shall be entitled to receive free license
95 plates or free revalidation decals in succeeding years upon furnishing, on an annual basis,
96 proof of his or her status as a disabled veteran through a letter from the United States

97 Department of Veterans Affairs. Such free license plates or free revalidation decals shall
 98 be for up to two motorcycles or passenger cars for personal use registered pursuant to this
 99 chapter that he or she may own or jointly with his or her spouse or minor child own or
 100 acquire in the future."

101 **SECTION 3.**

102 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 40-2-71, relating to design of
 103 disabled veteran license plates and restrictions on issuance and transfer, as follows:

104 "40-2-71.

105 (a) The commissioner is directed to furnish the license plates provided for in Code
 106 Sections 40-2-69 and 40-2-70. Such plates shall be printed in three colors: red, white, and
 107 blue. The commissioner is authorized and directed to design the license plate. Each
 108 license plate shall contain, in bold characters, the name of the state, or abbreviation thereof,
 109 the year, the serial number, either the words 'Disabled Veteran' or 'Disabled Vet,' and an
 110 image of the International Symbol of Access which is at least one inch in height and is
 111 white on a blue background.

112 ~~(b) Such license plates so issued shall be transferred to another vehicle as provided in~~
 113 ~~Code Section 40-2-80.~~

114 ~~(c)~~ No disabled veteran shall be entitled to own or operate more than ~~one vehicle~~ two
 115 vehicles with the free license plates provided by Code Sections 40-2-69, 40-2-70, and this
 116 Code section."

117 **SECTION 4.**

118 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2026.

119 **SECTION 5.**

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