

House Bill 583 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Glaize of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Bonner of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, and Newton of the 127<sup>th</sup>

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

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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.

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.